Wicked Girl Prologue

Prologue

It was a quiet night. In a certain university hospital, the life of a girl was fading away.
The girl knew as it became harder to breathe through her lungs that it was the end.

Since she was born her heart was weak and her doctor said that she wouldn't make it past ten. Luckily, her family was very wealthy so she was constantly hospitalized and which allowed her to live past her 17th birthday.

But she knew that her heart would stop working eventually. As her consciousness faded the girl thanked her parents, her doctor, and her nurse for everything. Thank you, thank you.

She was glad to be born despite spending her entire life hospitalised. Her body had been though a lot of surgery and towards the end she wasn't even able to lift herself up. Despite this, the girl had only one thought,

"I.. I want to keep living."

Without her wish being fulfilled, her consciousness fell into a deep void.

Wicked Girl 1

Chapter 1

"What?"

Where am I? All I can see is white everywhere. I'm in a place that's pure white. How strange, I thought I was in the hospital. But what I really want to know is,

"Didn't I die?"

It was so painful and hard that I thought it was over for me but right now my body is moving. An overly skinny and pale hand. Yeah, this is my body. But it's not hard to breathe and I can move normally. What is going on?

"Thats right, you just died."

"Wha..? Who are you!?"

While my head was still dazed I thought he had three heads but above me was a boy with a pair of wings on his back. Could this be an angel? He's so cute! I want to hug him!!

"I am an existence that humans call an angel. It's my job to send souls to the place humans call the land of the dead."

"So you're like a death god."

"Don't compare me to the likes of them."

His voice that's as effective as a yakuza sword and his sharp glare makes him seem a lot different than how I perceived him before.

If his job is to send souls to the other side does that mean that I'm heading there right now?

"Uh.., I'll count on you to send me to the other side."

“Well, that’s impossible right now.”

“What!?”

I bowed my head because I thought he was going to take me but he refused me with a sigh. Why?

“The ark that sends the souls over has a predetermined number of souls it can take. The point is, we’ve gone over the capacity. One person unexpectedly ended their life so we can’t take you over anymore.”

“Really…then what’ll happen to me?”

“We have to submit an application to take you and wait for the next ride to come. The thing is, this space only lasts a few hours so you’ll have to wait at earth.”

An angel’s job seems much like a regular business. But wait a second? If I have to wait at earth that means I get to be like this while I wait. So then I can see the world outside the hospital…

Basically, I can go see around the town!? The fashion district I only saw in books and movies. Beautiful scenery. The ocean and mountains of nature. Oh– I want to see. I was to see it so bad!

“I’ll gladly wait!”

“But you’ll be targeted by evil spirits since during that time you won’t be protected.”

“Really…”

Evil spirits..?

I guess those really exist. Well since angels do exist it makes sense that those would too. I’ve never seen any of those while I was in the hospital.

“What happens if you get caught by an evil spirit?”

“You become an evil spirit.”

“Ohh….”

While I was bedridden I bet it would’ve been impossible to escape an evil spirit once I was found. Anyways, I’m overflowing with curiosity so there’s no way I

won’t go out and explore. But I definitely don’t want to become an evil spirit so what should I do.

“…Theres also another path you can take.”

“Another path?”

The angel showed me a brilliant smile as he saw my troubled face. His halo is so radiant! And so cute!

“Remember how I told you that we had an unexpected death? That person was also a girl like you and had the same age. Also, you died at the same time. Her cause of death was suicide.”

Suicide!? What a waste.

“I have something to discuss with you. Do you want to take over her body?”

“What!”

“Nationality, gender, age, time of death. As long as all of those are the same we can transfer the soul. In other words, you’ll take over her life.”

To take the path of someone’s life. No way!.. well, I shouldn’t expect anything. But…

“Can I ask something?”

“What?”

“Can that person walk?”

“Yes, they can walk.”

“Could this person possibly be able to run too?”

“Yeah, isn’t that normal? The body’s in good shape.”

Healthy! Isn’t this a great day!

I can finally run up the stairs like I’ve always wanted! Then I might also be able to do cleaning. I’ll be able to dash through long corridors with a dust cloth.. I want to do it, I want to do it, I want to do it so bad!

“Please let me do this!”

“But this person has received a lot of bashing from her surroundings. It’s not

just her classmates and her teachers but also her parents neglected her. She had no friends. Do you still want her life?”

“Of course I do! Even if, for example, I have to live in a prison cell as a murder or live alone on an uninhabited island, as long as I have a healthy body I have no complaints!”

“…Oh, really.”

Thats right. As long as I have perfectly healthy body that I was impossible for me to obtain, it doesn’t matter if everyone hates me. I can do anything as long as I’m healthy!

I feel pity coming from the angels eyes. Why?

“Also, if you see anyone you knew, pretend that you’re a stranger. If you accidentally say your own name or speak of what happened, I’ll send you straight to hell.”

The angels eyes show me that he’s serious. So I have to forget about my parents. That makes me feel lonely but I didn’t see them very much in the first place so I’ll be alright.

As long as I don’t visit the university hospital I probably won’t run into my doctors so I think It’ll be fine.

“I understand. I’ll seal all my memories from before.”

“I’ll take that as acknowledgement. Now close your eyes. I’ll send you into that girl’s body.”

“Okay. Thank you very much angel-san, for fulfilling my wish.”

“Yes.”

When the angel’s hand touched my forehead, I felt a warm light envelop my body.

I had always wished for this. To have a healthy body. To become healthy. So,

“Thank you Angel-san.”

As if guided by the dazzling light, I lost consciousness once again. This time I’m unafraid. Because when I wake up, I’ll have a healthy body!

“Ok, with this I won’t have to write the report or the application, I won’t have to listen to complaints from my superiors, and I was able to save one soul so my assessment will go up. Oh, I was saved because of that simple girl. The owner of the body had a shitty life and was beyond saving. I bet things will get tough from here on out but everyone knows that with every good thing comes a bad thing. Good luck!”

Wicked Girl 2

Chapter 2

When I regain consciousness I'll be in a different realm… Wait, what?

I was forcefully awakened and froze when I saw my surroundings.

Around me was furniture I'd never seen before. Wait, this isn't a hospital. This is a girl's room. There were tons of accessories and cute stuffed animals lined up. Ah, I've always wanted to have a room like this.

Wait a second.

"….."

I glanced at my hand. It looked very skinny and pale. My nails are smooth and looked like they were cared for nicely. There wasn't a single mark on my nails.

"Mi-Mirror."

I found the tall mirror in the room and glanced at my face and body.

"No.. No way…."

As I peered into the mirror I saw long, black hair and a face with a good complexion looking back at me. Rather than being skin and bones my body was very womanly with all the right curves.

I touched my face over and over and spinned in circles. This body is mine starting today.

"I did it!!"

This doesn't feel real! I got such a cute face and I'm a healthy girl? This really isn't a dream?

When I pinched my cheek it hurt a lot. Yes, I'm not dreaming. Now I'm not too skinny or pale. I used to hate looking at my face as it progressively got worse so I

don’t even remember the last time I looked in the mirror. It doesn’t matter what happens, I’m healthy now!

“Thank you Angel-san!”

I kept jumping with joy. I couldn’t help but acting like a little kid. Since I was truly happy, there’s nothing wrong with a few jumps… jumping?

“Wait, I can jump now! Awesome!!”

I never thought I would ever jump. To be able to jump that many times without any pain, this is too amazing!

To think that the person who became breathless after sitting up would eventually jump, it’s making me tear up.

“You’re being loud Aika! Why are you so noisy, it’s morning.”

“Oh, sorry.”

I instinctively apologized since that’s what Japanese people naturally do. Anyways, who is this person? This mysterious old lady just suddenly entered my room after hearing me. Wait, I got it!

“You must be my mother.”

“What are you talking about. Go eat breakfast since you’re up now. I can’t clean the table until you eat.”

The mysterious old lady angrily stormed out of my room.

What a shock, to think that she was my sister. Just because our ages are far apart doesn’t mean I could say something so rude. I’m such an idiot. I’ll apologize later. What? Did she say breakfast?

“I can eat food now!”

While I was on the verge of death I couldn’t eat food and had to use a drip. Rather than a hospital food, I can eat home cooking. Food I could only see on the internet. Of course I’ll eat it!

I looked around as I left my room and walked down the stairs. Since it was a habit, I leaned against the wall as I descended slowly.

Right in front of the staircase after I descended was the entranceway. There

were many shoes lined up. What is her family like anyways? Now that I think of it, I don't know anything about her. All I know is that she likes rabbits.

…Oh no, I have a bad feeling about this. It's bad that I don't even know who's in her family. Come back Angel-san!

The distress I was feeling was instantly blown away by the smell of breakfast. As a military commander once said, "No army can fight on an empty stomach," so I decided to go ahead and eat for now.

Not only can I jump but I can also skip, so I nimbly opened the gate. I'd always wanted to be like this. I puffed up my chest and took a step outside when,

"How embarrassing for you to wear your pajamas outside. Although it may be golden week you're being too carefree. Here, eat your meal."

My sister appeared from the kitchen with a tray. The delicious smell of the miso soup made my stomach yearn with desire. It's a good thing to be hungry. On the dining table were traditional Japanese breakfast dishes such as egg and grilled salmon. Ah, I love Japanese-style meals.

"Itadakimasu."

"Yes."

Feeling thankful for my sister who prepared and made my food, I moved my chopsticks towards the tamagoyaki. The moment I put the food in my mouth, the sweet flavor spread throughout and gave me a feeling of joy.

Sweet, it's a sweet tamagoyaki. It's so delicious. When was the last time I ate something sweet?
Next lets drink the miso soup. It was traditional with wakame and tofu. It's good, it's so good! It warmed up my body and my heart. This is truly the taste of home style cooking!

"…What are you crying for?"

Before I knew it tears were streaming down my face.

"The food was so good….. Thank you Onee-san."

"What! Why are you saying something so creepy. You always called me an old hag, you're being so weird right now. What are you planning?"

“Oh no, it’s truly delicious. Thank you for allowing me to eat such a great meal you’ve made.”

When I looked at the clock it was past ten.

The time for breakfast had ended a while ago but the miso soup was still very warm. So she must’ve reheated it for me. What a kind person. This is what you call a mother’s flavor isn’t it.

“Thank you for the meal.”

“……”

Ahh, that was so good. It makes me so happy to know that I’ll be eating this breakfast every day. Is it okay for me to be this happy? I feel like something bad is going to happen.

“You won’t get anything by showering me with compliments. You, who doesn’t help at all cannot be helped.”

Providing help. I’ve always wanted to do that since I was a child. That is the path that every child takes as they grow up.

Hehe, let’s try that path out shall we. Although you can’t call me a child anymore. But now I want to try it out, helping someone.

“Is there anything you need help with?”

“What!?”

She knitted her eyebrows and stared at me as if I said something dreadful. Did I say anything odd?

“Do you want some money? Or is there anything you want me to buy?”

“No, there’s nothing that I want. If anything, I want to do manual labor.”

I used to always be on the receiving side of assistance so now I want to be useful to someone. Those who work will be rewarded. She gave me such a good breakfast so now I want to return the favor, in fact I would love to help.

“….If you insist, please go sweep and clean the entranceway.”

“With pleasure!”

“Don’t go outside wearing that, it’s indecent!”

I got scolded after happily leaving the living room. It’s true that cleaning in your pajamas isn’t good. Let’s change at once.”

When I opened the doors on my dresser, inside I saw many bright and frilly western-style clothes. So cute! Can I wear any of these? I never thought I would be able to wear such cute clothes, it seems like this girl was pretty fashionable. Nice! Oh but this skirt seems way too short… if I bent over you could easily see my underwear. Woah, these underwear are pretty showy!

I found a pink jersey hidden in the corner of the drawer. Okay, let’s begin cleaning. Long hair will just get in the way so let me just tie it. Inside the cute white dresser were a ton of glittering accessories which were hard to choose from. Fashion is supposed to be one of a woman’s joys isn’t it.

The dustpan and broom were at the entranceway. Ha ha I know how to use these. You collect trash with the broom and sweep it into the dustpan, right. What is this? It’s actually pretty difficult.

No matter how hard I tried to sweep all the trash into the dustpan there was always a little trash left over. When I shifted a little and repeated the process I ended up hitting my bottom on the front door.

I was asked to clean the entranceway but should I also clean outside? When I think about going outside my heart speeds up out of excitement. It’s been awhile since I’ve seen the outside. Feeling excited, I opened the door.

“Woah, it’s so bright!!”

My eyes burn after looking at the sun! I didn’t know that the power of nature was that incredible. Never was I able to see the sun in its full radiance. Kuu, revenge!

Next time, instead of immediately sticking my face out I’ll slowly open the front door.

Then I felt elements such as the wind and sun embrace my face and give off a faint aura. At my feet, small flower pots were lined up and cute little flowers were blooming. The light of the sun is so warming. Right now it feels like I can photosynthesize! It’s so wonderful to be alive!

“Yes, I better clean now.”

When reached my hand out to feel the sun’s rays my eyes caught on the broom and the dustpan. Oh shoot, I was in the middle of helping out. I forgot because of how moved I was.

I sweeped around the front door and the flowerpots which made my back hurt. Near my feet I saw the shadow of something that wasn’t my own. At the same moment, I felt a presence behind me.

“What?”

When I turned around I saw a very tan man a head taller than me standing. He also had a very displeased looking expression. Who is he?

“…….”

“Um, hey.”

Who could he be? It became kind of hard to talk in this kind of atmosphere and my voice wouldn’t come out. He knitted his eyebrows and glared at me before heading straight inside my house silently.
Could he possibly be a sibling? Since I was an only child it makes me happy to learn that I had two siblings. I want to get along with my siblings and do something like playing card games together. I always wanted to have siblings I was close to like in those family dramas.

When I finished cleaning and returned inside, I saw him again wearing his white t-shirt.

He had a good build, short black hair, and was very tan. He seems like the type who does sports. When our eyes met again he furrowed his brows and slowly clicked his tongue as he left the living room. Have I done something wrong?

…..No way, he must’ve wanted to do the cleaning! That’s why he’s so irritated at me who took away his job. What a terrible thing I’ve done! I need to apologize for this.

When I was about to open the door into the living room, I heard people talking inside.

“Onee-san was doing stuff outside, did anything happen?

“The thing is, your sister asked to help out. It felt so creepy.”

“Uwa, how weird. She’s definitely planning something.”

“Looks like it. If that’s the case, there’s no way you wouldn’t bring it up.”

Oh, I guess he must be my younger brother then. I always wanted a little brother so I’ll give him lots of attention. That means I must be the middle child then. It seems like things will be more fun since now I have both an elder sister and a younger brother.

“Mother I’m hungry. Give me food.”

What..?

Wicked Girl 3

Chapter 3

I thought she was my older sister at first but she was actually my mother.

My younger brother got up early and was eating breakfast while talking happily. I want to join them.

“I finished sweeping and cleaning. Is there anything else you need help with?”

“…. You’re acting weird.”

The instant I entered the living room the joyful atmosphere froze up. Why?

『The owner of this body is shunned by her parents.』

Now that I think of it Angel-san was saying something along those lines. That’s why my younger brother glared at me. Although I want to know why I was disliked, even more I want to know what I can do to get along with them.

“Welcome home.”

“Shut up.”

Wow that sounds harsh. The only thing I did was greet him but to get that kind of reaction means that I must really be disliked. Suddenly, the large sports bag by my brother’s feet caught my attention. I feel like I saw him carrying that on his shoulder earlier when I was at the entranceway. Is it for a club? I wonder what kind of sport he does.

“What’s your problem, don’t stare at my bag.”

“Do you use it for a club?”

What? If that was the case what would you do?”

“What’s your favorite part of doing club activities?”

I don’t know what club he’s in so I used an indirect method of asking him. In order to get along we need to interact more. For now let’s just talk, talk.

“That has nothing to do with you.”

“You must be in a pretty cool club aren’t you? I want to hear about it.”

“Yeah, Yuuya has pretty good reflexes. At the last game, he even hit a reverse grand slam. I want them to taste of his nail grime.”(TL note: Honestly I can’t think of a better way to translate this.) I see. Since he got a home run he must be in the baseball club. What explains why he’s so tan. I also got to learn that his name is Yuuya. Thanks mom. Also, even if you taste the nail grime your reflexes won’t get better. If it worked I would’ve done it. In fact, let me taste it.

“… By the way, what are you doing?” (Yuuya)

“You’re a weird child, to use a blindfold.” (Mother) “He told me not to look at his bag, so.”

“….Aren’t you a little stupid.” (Yuuya)

Although I’m disliked, he still properly responds to me. That’s still better than getting a cold reaction.

You can’t talk to books. You also can’t talk to the music you listen to. I was happy when the people I knew online responded to me but this is a different kind of joy. Right now I can actually speak to people face to face. That makes me happier than anything.

“Baseball is that thing right. When you get three points they say hat trick. Your Onee-san knows about this.”

“Hat trick is from soccer you idiot. Calling yourself Onee-san feels so creepy.”

“Uu.. Umm, once you hit the ball it’s called traveling and you have to run to the base…. right?”

“How are they supposed to run!? I don’t know what you mean. Traveling is a basketball term!”

I’m embarrassed that I acted like I knew. I want to hide in a hole somewhere.

“….Sorry for being so ignorant. I will come back after I learn more.”

I hung my face like I felt down. In order to keep the conversation going I said whatever came to mind but it wasn't useful. Next time I'll study this stuff first.

When I raised my face after feeling their gazes, I wondered why they were staring at me. They must me shocked at how I acted like I knew everything.

Yuuya stared at me while raising his eyebrows. He gives off the aura of someone who's good at sports. My mom looks at Yuuya expectantly.

"I want to see Yuuya-kun play a game."

"What!? Don't be kidding me. The only reason you're coming sis is to chase after guys isn't it?

Don't come, you're annoying. It's weird if you come so don't."

"My goal is Yuuya-kun. I'll come with a headband and a banner. Those are necessary for support you know!"

"Definitely don't come!"

If someone tells you not to go it is human nature to want to go. Let's go peek without being seen.

"Before I knew it you guys were getting along so well?"

"No we aren't!"

Within my dumbfounded mother's eyes, she saw that we were getting along. What should I do, I'm so happy.

Yuuya finished his food while looking irritated and swiftly left the living room. I'm worried about his blood pressure if he gets this worked up. Will he be alright?"

"Don't just sit there, why don't you get ready for tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow?"

"You have school from tomorrow didn't you?"

School.

That's the place where young people go to study. Not only is it for learning, but it's also the place where you go to make friends and join clubs to live your youth.

I had always admired and wanted to go to school but, "…Is it okay for me to go?"

"What? You have to go. You don't have any friends but instead you're probably just going to be chasing around guys. That's okay but just don't cause trouble to those around you. If I get called to school it'll be embarrassing for me. Really, why did you grow up becoming this kind of girl?"

Because of my excitement I couldn't hear my mom's words anymore. To be able to go to school is like a dream to me. Ah, school is calling for me. How wonderful.

"I'll try my best and go to school!"

All right, let's get prepared right away. I wonder what kind of school this girl went to, I also want to know if I can keep up with my studies.

With my heart racing, I returned to my room.

When I when into my room, I found my backpack first. There's a cute keychain on it and it looks good but wouldn't it be too noisy? This is so heavy.

Inside the backpack were my textbooks and snacks, there was even a pouch in it. I confirmed the contents of the textbook. Since I took college classes online it looks like I can keep up with the content. Ah, I found a notebook inside the bag.

"Hijiri Rin High School, second year, Class E, Shinozuka Aika."

Inside the student handbook was a photo of a girl with perfect makeup. Eh, who is this? I compared the picture to myself in the mirror and it almost looks like another person. Do I have to wear makeup? I've never done it before.

Although there's lots of makeup in the drawer I didn't know what to do. At that moment, I found a makeup magazine. As long as I use this!

.. Is what I first thought. It's impossible for a beginner to use makeup! How many times have I poked my eyelids? My hand shakes as I put the eyeliner on so it looks wavy. I guess I'll just have to get used to it. I don't want to go to school without makeup.

I used makeup remover on my face and reached for the uniform hung on the wall. It has a red ribbon with a blue blazer. The checkered skirt is cute. To be able to go to school tomorrow with this uniform makes me so happy I want to dance

with joy.

“.. Why don’t I try it on?”

With my heart pounding I put on the uniform and stood in front of the mirror. When I spun around my skirt fluttered and swayed. I wonder how many years it’s been since I last wore a skirt. I vaguely remember wearing a skirt when I was little but once I got older I was always bedridden. No matter how many times I look I don’t get tired.

Since I’m still not used to my face, it can’t be helped that I call myself cute openly. But I really am cute.

“I’m so cute that it fascinates me.”

While I was entranced by the mirror, I felt a gaze and looked back. Yuuya-kun was standing there with a crooked expression.

“Hey, is there anything wrong?”

I’m still not used to things so there probably is something strange about me. When I twirled in front of Yuuya-kun his expression got even more crooked. If he furrows his brows that much it’ll become permanent.”

“You’ve gone crazy.”

He said that one phrase and left the room.

I’ve gone crazy. Does that mean I should change my hairstyle? Since now I have long hair I should try to challenge new hairstyles!

It’s now morning. Finally, a school day.

I put on my uniform, tied my hair into a ponytail, and proceeded to leave the room. I tried out many hairstyles but this one was the easiest. The Aika in the school handbook had her hair gently curled but since I was a beginner I couldn’t curl my hair neatly and it’s shape resembled a gorgon. It was a bit of a shock for me.

The Aika that I see in the mirror is so cute that I feel sorry that I’m living as her. I’m also living for your sake so please watch over me.

I put my hands together and prayed to Aika, Angel-san, and my real parents.

From today I’m living as Shinozuka Aika.

In the living room I saw my mom was making breakfast but Yuuya was nowhere in sight. Come to think of it, I still haven’t seen my dad; does Aika not have a father?

“Good morning.”

“Good morn… wait, is it already late!?”

My mom looked back and sighed in relief after she glanced at the clock in her confusion.

“Hey, don’t scare me like that. Why did you get up so early? Yuuya isn’t even up yet.”

“I was so excited for school that I got up early.”

I’ve heard that children will get up early before field trips and now I understand how they feel. I’m so excited that I can’t sit still!

“I’ll help you out.”

“Really, that helps a lot.”

When I was bringing the tasty looking side dishes over to the table, my mom’s words echoed and reverberated in my ears.

『That helps a lot. 』

I feel like tearing up.

“Is there anything else you need help with?!”

“Um…. Today’s trash day so can you go drop it off?”

“With pleasure!”

After I learned where the trash was to be dropped off I rushed outside. The trash bag is heavy but my heart is light. She said that I was helpful. Oh, I’m so happy.

While I was headed to the drop-off place, I met an old lady who was carrying a trash bag that looked heavy.

“Good morning. I’m also headed to the drop-off place so would you like me to

carry your bag and head there together?”

“Is that okay? Sorry, recently my back has been hurting a lot. Thank you.”

“No problem, this is a light task.”

I retrieved the trash bag and greeted everyone we passed. I heard that it’s important to get along with your neighbors and also there isn’t anyone who wouldn’t like to be greeted in a friendly way.”

When I returned home, Yuuya was awake and eating breakfast. He’s eating so much in the morning. As expected of a guy.

“It seems like it’s going to rain.”

“Really, the blue sky outside looked very clear you know?”

“……”

The miso soup was good again today. I want to make it together next time. Making breakfast with my mother has always been one of my dreams.

Yuuya looked really cool in his school uniform. I bet he’s pretty popular with the girls. It must take a lot of work to be popular. My leading doctor was pretty popular with the nurses.

“Here, your bento.” (Mom)

“Thanks.” (Yuuya)

A ten thousand yen bill was put on my desk. Since there’s a school lunch I guess it means that I don’t get a bento.

“What is it? Don’t tell me it’s not enough.”

Despite feeling dispirited, when I heard my mother using a displeased tone I quickly denied her.

“No, thank you very much.”

I can’t say that because her breakfast was so good that I want a bento. It’s a lot of work to make a bento and I’m sure the school lunch is tasty too. I have to endure.

“I’m off.”

“What, are you going with your face like that?”

“Is that no good?”

When I finished breakfast and went to the entrance to put on my shoes, my mom appeared to be bewildered and doubtful. I checked my appearance many times in the mirror so I thought that I looked fine, but?

“You aren’t going to wear make-up?”

“I’ve been frustrated by it.”

I woke up early and tried my best but I guess it was impossible in the end.

“Is it better for me to wear make-up?”

“That’s not true… if you’re fine with that then I won’t say anything. Take care.”

“See you later!”

All right, we’re going to school! …Was what I thought when I opened the door and that’s good but, I wonder where my school is?

Yuuya left just before me on his bike. To get lost after my first step outside, this is too pitiable.

Wicked Girl 4

Chapter 4

It’s a good thing the world is so convenient now. When I searched the name Hijiri Rin School on my smartphone it showed me where and how to get there.

Let’s see, from here it’ll take ten minutes if I use the train. The train? Do I need to use the train to commute to school every day? Instead of just seeing it I get to ride in it, this is the first time in my life!

As I smiled while glancing at the map, I noticed other people who were wearing the same uniform. Could they be my classmates? Are we in the same classes? I couldn’t stop from feeling restless.

While I was waiting for the train I got thirsty so I bought an energy drink from the vending machine. I didn’t want to waste Aika’s money but my throat was dry. Maybe I’ll ask for a water canteen tomorrow.

When I heard the announcement that the train would arrive soon, I got prepared and saw the train coming. This is an actual train! I almost unintentionally waved at the train but I endured that urge.

Inside the train were so many businessmen and students that it almost looked congested. I aimed for a spot that I saw someone was leaving from. I sat down and surveyed my surroundings, the particular smell of the train raised my excitement. If there wasn’t anyone else in the train I was sure that I would’ve jumped around.

Once the train started moving I was gazing at the passing scenery when I noticed a girl who looked ill standing up. Could it be motion sickness? I set my bag down on my seat and decided to call out to her.

“Um, you look like you’re not feeling well, are you okay? You can seat here if you’d like.”

“Uh, but..”

When I approached her I saw that her face was looking so pale that I thought she might collapse any second. I guided the reserved lady to the seat and decided to give her the sports drink I bought earlier. The truth is, it was my first time having that drink so I bought two since I thought it tasted so good. That actually helped out.

“Take this if you’d like.”

“Thank you very much.”

She thanked me to the point that I felt embarrassed. It would have been awkward if I kept standing there so I moved near the doors. I’m healthy now so I’m fine with standing here. It’s wonderful to be healthy.

Suddenly, I had the feeling that someone was looking at me from the next train over and when I glanced back I saw that he was a male student, probably from the same school. Wow, he’s very good looking. Yuuya is also handsome but this guy is a different kind of ikemen. (Ikemen= good looking guy)

With his silky black hair and glasses he gave off a smart image. When my eyes met with the student with good facial features, he kept staring with no change in expression. Why?

He kept looking at me despite our eyes meeting, it’s a little strange to be stared at like this. For now I should smile. He could possibly be Aika’s acquaintance so I’ll try smiling sweetly.

What’ll happen now? He looked away instantly. Why!? Could I have been the only one who thought that our eyes met and he was looking at something else… this is so embarrassing!! Of course he would look away. To him it must seem like while he was looking at something, suddenly this strange girl in his field of vision started to smile at him.

I turned toward the door and gazed at the scenery so the same thing wouldn’t happen again. I shouldn’t jump to conclusions so quickly… I want to go burrow in a hole.

When I arrived at my stop I trudged out, feeling downhearted. Since I didn’t know which exit to take I waited for the girls with the same uniform to go first

and exited the station.

As I walked while using the map on my smartphone, the number of students increased around me. At the same time, I felt many gazes on me. I felt the gazes of two guys who kept on sneaking glances at me. It felt like the girls were whispering together while looking at me. It could be that I'm just being overly self-conscious. I had just recently had that misunderstanding so in order to not make that mistake again I quickly headed towards school.

"Was there always a girl like that at our school?"
"Pretty-. Did you see? Her face was very small, and her legs were super long."
"Oh no, I might have fallen for her."

I've finally arrived at the place I'd been dreaming of!
Hijiri Rin Academy. An orange gate and a white school building. Ah, this is the school I get to go to from today. I'm so moved that I'm tearing up.

Many students were standing before the front gate. Sometimes students would get someone and talk to them and then go greet another student. Could this possibly be a greeting activity or something? Then I should go give them an energetic greeting.

"Good Morning!"

"Good morning."

The one who turned around was yet another ikemen. S-So bright! My chances of running into an ikemen are high recently!

He had swept back hair and narrow eyes, and gives off an air of intimidation that suggests that he's part of a shady occupation. He's very cool looking but seems hard to approach, or to put it bluntly, scary. Going past me as I froze, a girl greeted him as he was passing through.

"Good morning, Katsuragi-kun. Good job with the clothing inspection. It looks like a lot of work from the morning."

"Good morning. I am in the disciplinary committee after all."

Wow. This is what a handsome guy and pretty girl looks like. The girl had slightly dyed light brown hair and the guy had such graceful features that he

seemed hard to approach. They look like a well-suited couple.

The guy's name was Katsuragi and he's in the disciplinary committee. His work sounds difficult, they have to check every student so early in the morning. Sorry I thought you looked scary.

"You, I've never seen you before, are you a transfer student?"

I was unable to respond right away because of how sudden he called me. I couldn't stop myself from freezing since I was being looked at so directly. In that moment, I learned that the words too handsome were a dangerous weapon.

"… Why are you hiding your face with your bag?"

"I fully understand that I'm being rude. Katsuragi, you're too cool that I can't properly look you in the eye! I'm sorry!"

I know that I can just avert my eyes if I can't look at him but it's so rude to talk to people without looking them in the eyes. So I decided to just say how I felt and use my bag as a wall to talk.

"You're a pretty strange girl aren't you. Haha, that's the first time someone's said that to me."

When I moved my bag slightly to take a peek, I saw that the corners of Katsuragi-san's mouth were raised in a smile. Woah, what a dangerous weapon!

"What's your name? If you're a transfer student I'll lead you to the staff room."

"No thank you! I'm not a transfer student so I'll be alright. Good job out there. Please keep at it."
I used my bag as a shield so I wouldn't see his and escaped the area. My body may be healthy but my heart has no endurance. I didn't know if the reason why my heart was pounding so fast was because I ran or if it was because I saw Katsuragi-san's face. My face is gradually getting hotter.

I looked for my class year at the shoe racks. When I found my own there weren't many students nearby. Oh no, I'm going to be late. In a rush I grabbed my slippers and froze out of shock again. It was because my, Shinozuka Aika's, shoe rack was painted out black. To put it more accurately, slanderous words

were written on it.

『Gross, Annoying, Ugly, Die』

It had nasty things written on it like the words that often appear in novels and manga. Unforgivable.

Despite Aika-chan being this cute! There's no way I'm dying, since I'm going to live in the place of Aika!

Written inside the indoor slippers included, 『Don't go near Ichinose senpai.』 which really bothered me. If they don't want me to go near him I won't but who exactly is Ichinose?

I don't have an extra pair of slippers, and these stand out so much that there's no mistaking what it is. But the inside isn't dirty or wet so this is fine, although it's completely black.

I have no clue where my classroom is. I felt lucky when I found a map near the entrance, and when I went to the second floor I found the staff room.

I don't know if the bell is ringing soon but I felt that the students were now rushing faster and saw a teacher exit from the staff room. Shoot, I need to hurry!

"The girl there, wait."

After hearing him I stopped and turned around. It must be because I was about to run. You're not allowed to run in the halls at high school, I messed up.

"Sorry that I ran. I didn't think I'd make it in time."

"It's not about that. It's about those slippers. Are you being bullied?"

It's so straightforward that I don't know what to say. I should probably say that I am but the one being bullied was Aika and isn't the me now. I didn't know what kind of bullying she got so for now I'll act like I don't know.

"No, you're wrong."

"Saying that while wearing those slippers won't persuade me."

He's right. I couldn't think of a good excuse so I looked away.

"What's your name and which class are you in?"

“Uhh…”

“What’s your name and which class are you in?”

“… I’m a second year, Shinozuka Aika from Class A.”

“What!?”

I answered honestly but he responded with a look of shock. This is the so called stink eye.

The teacher was young with a light perm and hair dyed light brown. It’s a little disappointing to see that he has stubble on his face but it’s actually not that bad. He could possibly be in the ikemen category. I’m so full already.

“Are you really Shinozuka?”

“Yes. Don’t I look like Shinozuka Aika no matter how you look at me?”

But on the inside I’m not. Since I look like Aika-chan, I spun around to make sure he knew.

“I can only see you as another person. You always had your face painted thick with makeup. Did you sleep in late and not have enough time to put on makeup?”

What could this be. The moment I told him my name, the air got tense and his words got more malicious. This feels like deja vu. Oh, it must be that! It’s like how Yuuya-kun acted. Now that I think of it wasn’t she hated by her teachers too? Aika-chan, you lived in quite heavy circumstances…. Poor Aika-chan, it must have been difficult.

“I woke up early but I failed at my makeup. Is it necessary for me to wear makeup?”

“Not really. I didn’t really care what your face looked like but it’s pointless to try to challenge me with no makeup. Your character is too rotten. Hurry up and get to class, you’re an eyesore.”

Challenging at him without makeup is pointless because my character is rotten, is he saying that I’m cute? Oh no, that’s making me feel shy.

“Don’t get happy, it’s creepy.”

“S-Sorry. I’m happy that you complimented me.”

“What? Where in that sentence did I compliment you? Are you an idiot?”

“If I challenge you with no makeup my personality is rotten so I’m no good. But then that means all I need to do is make my personality lovely right? What do you think I need to change about myself Sensei?”

“Everything.”

Wha…. to suddenly be told to change everything is difficult.

“Specifically, what should I fix about myself?”

“The mindset that you are the cutest in the world.”

It’s true that Aika-chan is cute but there are people like that pretty girl at the school gate that are even more cute out there. I nearly became a narcissist. Thanks Sensei.

“Thanks for the warning. Is there anything else?”

“That rotten personality you have in which you believe every guy in the world will fall for you.”

Really, I don’t think I do that. How many people do you think are out there. I bet there were guys who liked Aika-chan but now that I’m her, their feelings might change. I feel bad.

“I don’t think all the guys in the world will fall for me so I think I’m all right.”

“Really?”

“Is there anything else? I’ll try my best to change.”

“Did you hit your head? Or did you eat something weird?”

“My mom’s breakfast was very good.”

“….”

“I feel like I’m being looked at with a shocked expression. Did I respond in a strange way? Ah, it’s the bell! What time is it now? Homeroom is going to start.

“Excuse me!”

I ran to my classroom while bowing my head. A rule violation? Please overlook

this!

“Is that really Shinozuka?”

Second year Class A. My nervousness was at a peak, standing in front of the classroom. From today this is my class. Ah, there are classmates in the same grade here. There are girls the same age as me here. Angel-san told me that Aika-chan had no friends so I would like to make some new friends.

I energetically opened the door.

Wicked Girl 5

Chapter 5

The class fell silent. Until a second ago I could hear lively voices as I stood in the corridor. Did I surprise everyone? I felt their gazes on me. Uwa, this is making me tense.

I didn't know where my seat was but there was only one seat open right in the center of the class. Lucky! When I arrived at my seat,

"Eh– are you serious!"

"Impossible!"

"Did she resort to plastic surgery? This is creeping me out."

"Return my pure heart you made flutter for a second."

All of the sudden I received bashing. There's no way I would do plastic surgery, I'm all natural. But it seems like I'm pretty disliked. It must have been hard for Aika-chan to endure this classroom full of malice. I'm even glared at by people I don't even know, why? That was the only thing I was worried about so I'm fine.

"Good morning."

"…Morning."

I greeted the guy sitting next to me. When I sat down and tried to put the contents of my bag into the desk my textbook wouldn't fit. When I peeked into my desk, I saw it was filled with trash and things like hair and strange bags. Aika-chan, you should clean.

There were girls giggling nearby and made me feel embarrassed. Thats right, you shouldn't put things like garbage in your desk. I took out all the trash and

threw it away. As soon as I finished cleaning my teacher walked in. Wait, what? The teacher that just came in was the one I saw earlier with the fluffy hair and unshaven face.

“Everyone, return to your seats. I’m taking attendance.”

It turned out that he was my homeroom teacher. The names were listed off until it was finally my turn.

“Shinozuka.”

“Here!”

“… You don’t have to raise your hand.”

The reality really hit in when my name was called. It’s okay for me to be here.

Since it’s impossible to memorize all my classmates names so suddenly, I decided to try to learn the name of the person next to me and in front of me. The guy next to me is Tanaka-kun and the girl in front of me is Yamamoto-san. There, my number of acquaintances has increased.

I looked at the guidebook that was passed to me by Yamamoto-san and it made me want to to squeal in excitement but I suppressed that urge. It was because this was written on the front of it,

“The 21st Athletic Festival”

Athletic festival. Athletic festival!? It’s coming up-!! This huge event suddenly sprung up on me. For students, the athletic festival is a large event where you build memories that last a lifetime. Suddenly I really want to participate. Now that I’m healthy I wonder which event I’ll do.

“The athletic committee helps out with the festival committee, we respectively need to choose two people for behind the scenes from our class. Is there anyone who would like to do it?”

“Yes!”

In order to create good memories, I might as well get involved deeply as a staff member. The behind the scenes people usually get the random jobs. Since I can help out, there’s no way I won’t overlook this opportunity.

“You’re in the student council so of course you’re in the committee.”

What, what did you say!?

So Aika-chan must have been in the student council. Socially speaking it’s a great position. Aika-chan is amazing. She’s cute and represents the students in the student council, how respectable.

So that means I can get involved in the cultural festival. My high school life seems exciting. Does everyone else want to help out too? I totally understand, I understand!

“When the student council gets involved the girls eyes seem to change.”

“If they go that far its kinda scary.”

I heard people talking behind me so I looked around. It’s true that the girls seem to have a certain gleam in their eyes. They’re like animals hunting for prey on the savannah. On the other hand, the boys seemed to cool down. I wonder if there’s something about the student council that stirs up the girls?

In the end we used rock paper scissors to choose one boy and one girl, and the morning homeroom ended. The girl who won exclaimed, “I get to talk to Ichinose senpai!,” happily.. Wait? I feel like I’ve heard that name somewhere.

The boy who won was Tanaka-kun who sits next to me so it seems like we’ll talk more in the future. Gufufu, it seems like it won’t be long until I make friends.

During break time, I thought about trying to talk to someone but all the girls were stuck to their groups and it feels like an invisible wall is there. It almost seems like they don’t want me to talk to them. I thought that I would easily be able to make friends but recently I’ve learned that the world isn’t as simple as I thought. Although I say that, it’s still the first day so I can’t get discouraged already.

Now I’ve finally arrived, at the other pleasure of school. The cafeteria’s lunch meal! I wondered what I should eat after checking the map by the school gate again and skipped towards the cafeteria.

The cafeteria was very stylish with it’s terrace shape and breeziness. I had imagined the dining area I had seen long ago in the lower parts of town so I

opened my mouth wide as I looked up at the ceiling. There's a propeller spinning. The glass cafeteria had the sun coming through and sparkle with radiance. It was then that I came to the conclusion that this school is for rich people.

Following the other students, I got in line for a meal ticket and once again felt gazes on me. I've already gotten used to it. The more I worry about it the more stressed I get so for now I'll think about the wonderful menu. What should I eat? I had a Japanese style meal this morning so a western style meal sounds good. Alright, for now I'll have the most standard meal out of all, the king of western style meals, omelette rice!

I brought the meal I ordered to an open seat and with a huge smile I stuffed my cheeks with a mouthful.

"Delicious!"

A syrupy egg with a rich demi-glace(type of brown sauce). What a superb dish. I'm super happy. This is cheap at only 300 yen. I'll have it again sometime.

"Hey Shinozuka-san. You aren't eating on the second floor?"

"What?"

I got called out by someone in front of me while I was happily eating my meal. This is the first person who's called me out knowing I was Shinozuka Aika. When I looked up I realized it was Tanaka-kun who sits next to me in class.

"It's about student council members are coming right?"

"Do student council members have to eat on the second floor?"

"You don't have to but I thought it was unusual for you to be here since you usually eat up there."

"Oh so that's how it was. Do you eat on the second floor Tanaka-kun?"

"? Only the student council members can eat on the second floor. Other students are banned from coming up there I think."

"Oh…"

When I peered up at the second floor, I saw many students eating there. For some reason the second floor seems more extravagant than the first but I prefer

the first floor since it's so lively. I had always eaten meals by myself so such a lively atmosphere feels fresh to me.

"I'll still eat here. I think it's more fun since it's lively."

"…For some reason today Shinozuka-san seems somewhat,"

"Thanks for waiting. Who is this cute girl!"

"Satoshi, could this possibly be your girlfriend?…. You traitor!"

As Tanaka-kun tried to say something, two guys came in from behind him. How nice, to have friends…

"No, you're wrong! This is Shinozuka-san, you know. The one who sits next to me."

"What!? You're talking about that Shinozuka?"

"Wait so this girl is that loose bitch with the insane eyelashes?"

It's that look again. As soon as people know that I'm Shinozuka Aika, peoples eyes give off blatant feelings of hatred. Why is she hated so much? What in the world did Aika-chan do? It really bothers me.

Tanaka-kun's friends stared at me and furrowed their eyebrows. I felt like running away so I gave an insincere smile which made them wrinkle their brows further. What should I do? Someone rescue me, my delicious omelette is getting cold!

"Sorry for bothering you while you were eating."

Sensing the unpleasant atmosphere, Tanaka-kun apologized to me in a sorry tone.

This person's definitely a good person! Let's become friends!

"If you would like you can sit with me…."

"Kya! It's Sakaki senpai!"

"Mikoshiba-kun is so cool!"

"Akira-kun is so cute! He makes me want to protect him."

I wanted to invite Tanaka-kun to sit with me so we could talk more but as I

tried to ask the high pitched squeals of the girls made me lose my chance.

Eh, what is this. Suddenly the cafeteria is filled with the sound of girls cheering, just like the fans of idols I've seen online.

"Day after day it's insane. It seems like student council has it tough."

"Really? I'm jealous of them. I want to be chased after, but only by cute girls."

"Stupid."

Just because the student council members are here it became this loud? Since I'm in the student council I need to know who they are or else I'll be in trouble.

I tried to stand up to see but the other girls did the same thing and created a wall so I could only see their heads. Son of a bitch.

"Oh I see. Even if you change your face to look more innocent, inside you're still a bitch. You want to get closer with the guys in the student council."

"Well, I'm not even interested at you in all. You're overshadowed by the actual innocent girl, Sakurako-chan."

I can't even tell what he's talking about anymore. My brain can't keep up.

To put it simply,

"I'm in the student council, and I'm hated by everyone and am really a bitch. The only reason I joined the student council was to chase after the guys, and I am overshadowed by the real girl right?"

"…You're wrong at the end."

"Weren't you a girl?"

Yup, from listening to the people around me Aika-chan has a pretty bad reputation. But in reality she was so driven to a corner that she committed suicide so I think that everything's not entirely Aika-chan's fault.

"Ichinose senpai!!"

"Lucky, I get to see Ichinose senpai who rarely goes to the cafeteria!"

Ichinose senpai? It's that name again that I feel like I've heard of.

When the cheering became even more loud I looked down while plugging my

ears and saw my slippers in my field of view. Ah, it's this!

The phrase written on the slipper, "Don't come near Ichinose senpai." I felt relieved knowing what it was but now there's a new problem. The ones being cheered for right now are in the student council right? So that means….

"Ah, it's the president. It's quite rare to see you come to the cafeteria."

"You're were always eating with Sakurako-chan."

It was as I thought!

Furthermore, he's the president. It's impossible for me to avoid him since I'm in the same student council!

This is making me tired. There's no point in overthinking it, let's just eat the omelette rice that's in front of me now.

"You guys if you don't eat isn't your food going to get cold? Why don't you eat with me?"

I didn't forget to invite them.

"Yeah, you're right. Why don't we eat here?"

"What, we're eating with the bitch? My foods going to go bad."

Tanaka-kun confidently sat down but the two guys behind him looked reluctant and sighed. The meal is delicious so it's not going bad you know.

They sat next to Tanaka-kun as if they were lining up and began to eat the things that guys like such as curry and fried foods. I'll try the curry tomorrow.

Deciding this, I stuffed my cheeks with my omelette rice. The yellow blob on Tanaka-kun's tray had remained there untouched.

"Hm? Shinozuka, you like pudding?"

So it was pudding!! The king of egg sweets, pudding!

Oh no, I was so focused on my meal that I forgot about dessert! How regrettable. I've decided that tomorrow I'll get both curry and pudding.

"Do you want it?"

He smiled while putting the pudding I was staring at onto my tray. Are you

god!?

“….Is it okay?”

“Yup. I had more food than I thought so it would help if you ate that.”

That’s definitely a lie. There’s no way that a boy with growing appetite wouldn’t eat something. He must have seen that I wanted it and gave it to me out of kindness. He’s so nice.

“…Is it really okay?”

“Yup.”

“Thank you. Itadakimasu.”

I smiled widely and took a bite of the pudding. The second the pudding hit my tongue, I felt the pleasantly cool sweetness of the egg. What a familiar taste.

“It’s so good! Thank you Tanaka-kun.”

“Oh, really? I’m glad you’re happy.”

What is this feeling? Tanaka-kun’s face has become slightly red. I tilted my neck and was feeling satisfied by the pudding so I forgot about the worry I had earlier.

“I think it’s over for me. I’m starting to think that Shinozuka is cute.”

“Me too.”

The friends next to me started to look at my pudding. They probably wanted to eat it. When you see someone eating something, it makes you want to have it too. But I’m not going to give it to them though.

I finished eating my meal and pressed my hands together in thanks for those who made the food. I’m truly happy right now.

“Thank you Tanaka-kun.”

“Was the pudding really that good? You must really like pudding Shinozuka-san.”

“Yeah I like pudding. But I’m also happy because you guys ate with me.”

No one was talking to me today so I didn’t think I would be able to meet

anyone today and ate by myself. It wasn't that hard but when I saw other girls eating together cheerfully I actually felt jealous.

"So I had a lot of fun eating with you Tanaka-kun and your friends. Thank you very much."

"Shinozuka-san.. I had a lot of fun too. Let's eat together again."

"Is that alright!? I'll happily join you guys!"

I did it! I made lunchtime friends!

"Damn it, she's cute."

"This is what you call a technique isn't it. Women are terrifying."

Wicked Girl 6

Chapter 6

In the end, I never got to see the faces of the student council members and my exciting lunchtime was almost over. I left Tanaka-kun and his friends and in order to fully enjoy the rest of the break I decided to explore the school. Since if I had to keep looking at the map when switching classes each time I'll be late.

While deciding where to go, the courtyard in the center of the map caught my eye. If it's a courtyard it must have a lot of greenery. A lot of greenery means that they are there too! I have to go check it out now!

It seems that you can't go in the courtyard with your slippers on so you need to put your slippers in the shoebox near the entrance and wear the sandals meant for the courtyard. Why sandals… regular shoes would match them more.

When I put my sandals on and entered the courtyard it seemed like an oasis. There was a brick path and a brown bench in the shade of the trees where students were reading. As one would expect there was no fountain. Too bad.

I went towards the blossoming trees which all around and searched for them. I had only seen them in movies and books. I was so excited and full of anticipation to the point that I couldn't stop myself from breathing faster and if you saw me you would think I was a suspicious person. I just wanted to meet them so bad!

"Found them–!!"

Hidden within the leaves, they were moving their red bodies with black speckles.

"I found a ladybug! Oh, and over here is a grasshopper! Kya-it flew! It's so amazing!"

This is the first time I've seen these bugs. They're alive, these small things are

trying their best to live. Compared to humans they're small and their lives are short. But they are pushing though and thriving with what they got. Amazing, it's breathtaking.

Without thinking the tears formed in my eyes and as I stood up I saw many students gathered in the flowerbed. They were wearing track suits and had gloves and shovels. This incited my interest a bit. Could they be gardening? Are they planting seeds?

I approached as if being drawn towards it and saw that they were digging and softening the soil with their shovels to plant seeds like I thought. I wish I could do that, it looks fun. I want to try.

"I'm sick of this already! I hate insects."

"Don't complain. Since you're in the environmental committee, you know that you have to maintain the flowerbed."

"But…."

The girl was standing in front of the flowerbed. Isn't this a chance for me? I may not be in the same committee but I'm not letting this chance get away! I need to have courage!

"Hey, umm.."

"Hmm?"

Afu. I drew back as soon as they turned around.

"Let me see, does anyone know her?"

"I don't know anyone like this cute girl."

"Do you have any business here?"

The one who appeared in front of me was the girl who said she hated bugs and was sick of planting seeds. I've seen so many displeased faces today that I don't feel scared anymore… Immunity is amazing.

"I want to help out, is that okay?"

"When you say that you want to help you mean with planting the seeds?"

"Yeah, that's right!"

“You’re an amazing person! A helper has arrived!”

I thought she would have a scary expression but when I looked, she was accepting me with a full smile.

I put on the gloves they gave me and dug up the soil with the shovel. What is this, it’s super fun! I was worried about my uniform getting dirty but I could just remove it later. I should focus on the soil in front of me!

“Noo! An earthworm!”

“Eww, don’t throw it over here!”

“You, watch out for earthworms and frogs…”

“They said there’s earthworms, mole crickets, and pond skaters here you know.”

“….I think we’ll be okay.”

“You’re right.”

It’s pretty noisy but I don’t mind. Since I got to see an earthworm. Watching it wiggle back and forth somehow made it seem lovely and I wouldn’t mind watching it forever.

So that it wouldn’t get in the way of the planting, I picked the earthworm up with my shovel and moved it to a separate area. I wanted to touch it but I was afraid of accidentally squishing it so I didn’t.

“Kya-there’s larva here! I can’t do this anymore.”

“I’ve heard that the brain of organisms taste good since they have a lot of protein.”

“Stop it-.”

“Right now they’re sleeping and will be born healthy you know-”

As I was digging I encountered a larva. I wonder what kind of bug it’ll become. I wished it to try its best and returned it to the soil. To think that I would be able see this many kinds of bugs, I’m glad I came to the courtyard.

“Strong…”

“That’s why they wanted to do it.”

We weren’t planting seeds we were planting seedlings. I’m thankful for the environmental committee allowing me to even water them. When I saw the flowerbed looking neatly arranged a feeling of accomplishment struck through me.

“What kind of plant will bloom here?”

“It’s a type of flower called the celosia argentea. In the language of flowers it stands for style and individuality.”

“Wow-”

If it stands for individual and stylish, I bet a rare flower will bloom. I’m so excited!

The environmental committee seems nice. If I could I would like to join. I don’t know if she sensed what I was feeling or not but that girl who was in a bad mood at first called out to me.

“Hey, why don’t you join the environmental committee? You like things like flowers don’t you?”

“Um, but..”

“Oh that sounds good! Definitely join us.”

To think that they would come ask me to join! They actually need me. It makes me so happy!

I would join if I was able too!

“Thank you very much. However, I’m already part of another committee.”

“Oh no, really. By the way, which one are you in?”

“The student council.”

“What, was there always a girl like you in the student council?”

“No, she’s not in it. In the student council there’s Ichinose senpai and Sakaki senpai. Also Mikoshiba senpai and Akira-kun. And with Shinozuka that makes five people.”

Everyones eyes were fixed on me. Until a second ago everyone was talking happily so when I thought about how they're going to look at me in a second I felt sad, as one would expect .

"I know that it's a little late to ask now but what is your name?"

"Shinozuka Aika."

"No-way! No no no no, that's definitely not true! You're a totally different person!?"

I am a different person.

I didn't know what kind of person Aika-chan was so it's vexing that I can't imitate her.

How do you act like a wicked girl anyways.

Should I be like that lady, Marie Antoinette? She's the one that said to eat if you're hungry right? That's right, if you're hungry you should eat… I feel like that's not exactly what she said.

"Are you really Shinozuka Aika?"

"Yes, I am Shinozuka Aika."

"Your appearance has really changed but your personality is way different too though…"

I felt like running away from their gazes. I'm really suspected now. As I thought it's impossible to live in the place of Aika-chan without knowing anything about her. I should have asked Angel-san more first.

The truth is, I know the magic words that would allow me to escape here but if I said it I wouldn't be able to go back to that place again. This is the worst, just like that time again….

"Ah, the chime. If I don't hurry I won't make it."

"We're going this way then. Umm, thank you Shinozuka."

"No problem! Let me know if you ever need me!"

When I was about to be questioned, the chime sounding the end of lunch came at the perfect time. I was saved! Also I'm happy that they even thanked

me.

I saw the same girl who was displeased earlier again since our slippers were in the same area. It says her name is Seta-san. When she saw my slippers she made a scary expression.

“…What is this.”

“It’s my slippers.”

“I can tell that much by looking at it! Why are you still wearing those slippers!”

The slippers were covered in insults, making them pitch black. She grasped the slippers tightly, and grinded her teeth so loudly that I could hear it. Wait a second, if you grip it that tightly the slippers shape is going to change!

“Those were the only slippers I had. They may be dirty but it’s fine since I can still wear them.”

“That’s not alright! Are you an idiot!? Doesn’t wearing these slippers make you upset, don’t they make you sad? Don’t be smiling about it!”

What is this. I felt happy although I was being yelled at. For my sake she said, “I don’t like when people hide in the shadows, if I find the suspect I’ll state my complaints,” and is getting mad for me.

A strange feeling.

In my previous life people were always considerate towards me as they were treating my swelling, so it feels very warm for someone to get upset for me.

“Thank you, Seta-san.”

“Why are you thanking me? I’m mad you know!”

“Yeah. So… thanks.”

Seta-san is a great person. Although she’s mad at me she’s only using considerate words, how kind and warm-hearted.

I’m not sure if it was because she was getting irritated at me for smiling but she pulled on my cheeks.

“It hurts it hurts it hurts!!”

Why the heck are you smiling so frivolously. You really are…”

“The student over there. Class is starting soon.”

“Oh shoot.”

As if to interrupt Seta-san, a guy with a low voice came from behind me. It was such a cool voice that it almost gave me goosebumps.

When I turned around, I almost exclaimed in excitement because the guy walking towards me was so attractive. The closer he gets the more I can tell how good-looking he is. Out of all the ikemen I’ve seen today he is the best.

He was taller than Yuuya-kun, but had the same kind of short black hair, and his eyes had a sharp look that portrayed his strength. His body was so trained I could even tell through his blazer.

Fuaaa, so cool! Is there only ikemen at this school!?

“What are you doing. Hurry up and return to class.”

“Yes yes, I’m going.”

“Okay, what is that? Show it to me.”

He noticed the slippers that Seta-san was holding and took them from her while furrowing his eyebrows. Uwa, scary.

“Whose slippers are these?”

“It’s hers. Hey, this is also partly you guys fault this happened so hurry up and catch the criminal!”

“Eh, no way! I can’t ask some random person to do that.”

I don’t really care about who did it so they don’t really have to go find them. Furthermore, I can’t ask someone uninvolved to suddenly do something like that.

Wait? Didn’t Seta-san say something strange just now?

“No, you’re right, we should deal with these kinds of things as soon as possible. What’s your name?”

“Ah yes. I am..”

“Wait a second.”

Seta-san grasped my shoulders tightly and and stared at me with a serious expression on her face. Within her facial expression I could sense some bewilderment.

“Are you seriously asking him?”

I had no idea what Seta-san was talking about and didn’t reply so her expression got even more bewildered and her mind was stumped. Eh, did something happen? Did I do something?

“What’s wrong Seta?”

“Can you be quiet for a sec.”

The cool guy stayed with us and tried to help Seta-san who was standing still and trying to grasp what was going on. This is pretty painful Seta-san!

“There is no way that you don’t know who he is.”

“Really….”

“What is going on. This is the first time I’ve seen this girl.”

Oh, crap.

It was too late by the time I thought of it. I understood that I had just made a mistake that can’t be undone.

This cool guy is an acquaintance of Aika-chan. In addition, Aika-chan is close enough to him that even Seta-san knows. I felt like my entire body was beating and the sound of my heart resounded throughout.

“This girl may look different, but she is Shinozuka Aika.”

“Shinozuka, you say.”

Ah, it’s those eyes again. I wonder why my chest hurts so much. He’s looking at me as if I were a strange substance, I thought I had gotten used to that look but my chest is in pain.

“Also, this guy, Mikoshiba Kento, is in the same class as me. He’s in the student council.”

Whaattt!?

He’s the same year!? I thought he was at least an upperclassman! Then again he looks more like an adult since he doesn’t have his uniform on.

Thats not the issue! I shouldn’t be worried about that right now. To think that he was also in the student council with me. I should have tried with all my might to see their faces in the cafeteria. It looks like I’ve done it now, what should I do.

“….Are you really Shinozuka Aika?”

“Thats right, she is. I didn’t even believe it at first but she even had her student card.”

“Well, but it’s not just her appearance but her atmosphere has also changed.”

“I thought that too. But none of that matters right now. What I want to know is why you didn’t know this guy’s face.”

“The thing is, I didn’t know or in other words, I didn’t understand…..”

I wanted to run away as they slowly drove me into a corner. What should I do, what do I say?

While I was stumped for an answer, Seta-san said these words,

“You said you didn’t know…. could you possibly have amnesia?”

Of course that’s what they would think. No matter how you look at it, there’s no way I could become Aika-chan. It’s obvious that they would think I’m being strange, and I can’t say the truth so I was thinking about using that excuse.

But, I didn’t want to say it. Because if I say it I would…

“So it’s amnesia, huh. Do you really have no memories?”

“But there’s no way she did. A second ago she was digging in the flowerbed and was getting excited at seeing the earthworms and larva you know? Isn’t that impossible!?”

“….Did you go to the hospital?”

“I am very healthy! Healthy people don’t go to the hospital!”

『The hospital.』

I was scared of those words.

Now that I finally have a healthy body, if by any chance I got hospitalized because of an inspection then….

I can finally run, jump, and eat delicious foods with this healthy body. My first time experiencing school life, a fun daily life. That could possibly all go away. I could become all alone again in the hospital…

“Haa, Hii,”

“What’s wrong!?”

“Oh no, she’s hyperventilating.”

I felt bad about having the vice president Mikoshiba-kun carry me as my consciousness was wavering due to my inability to properly breathe, He’s calling for me with a worried tone. This doesn’t appear to be a dream. I still want to live.

In order to settle me down I was brought to the school infirmary where I rested on the bed.

Ah, this feels so familiar. The tears gradually begin to form. What should I do if I end up hospitalized?

While I rolled around in the bed and hugged my pillow with anxiety, suddenly..

“Um, is Shinozuka-san here?”

This voice is Tanaka-kun!

“Are you feeling alright?”

“Yeah, I’m fine. Sorry for worrying you.”

When I retrieved my bag the atmosphere felt very calm so I could settled down and was able to open the door quickly.

“Why are you also coming?”

“Of course I am.”

“Why would you do that? Are you alright with getting up already?”

It’s Seta-san and Mikoshiba-kun. Tanaka-kun was pretty shocked by their entrance but my heart was even more surprised. I haven’t even cleared up

anything yet so this is awkward.

“How are you feeling?”

“Ah, yes. I’m fine now.”

“….You really have changed.”

His eyes which were staring directly at me didn’t show feelings of hatred or suspicion, but instead appeared to be tender. Mikoshiba-san patted my head as I was sitting on the bed and said,

“I think that out of everyone you are the most troubled here. Sorry that I acted as if I were backing you into a corner.”

“Eh….?”

“Sorry. It’s not even your fault Shinozuka-san but I kept pressing you for answers. Of course you were afraid, you’ve lost your memory. I’m really sorry!”

It appears that the reason that I had hyperventilated was because of extreme psychological stress. The people involved apologized repeatedly because they believed that I hyperventilated from the stress and anxiety that came from amnesia.

“Eh, Shinozuka-san you had lost your memory!?”

Tanaka-kun who had been as quiet as an outsider suddenly exclaimed in a surprised voice. Ah, the misunderstanding is rapidly getting bigger. The truth is I didn’t lose my memory but it’s much easier to say that I did because I can’t explain it. If I could I would much rather tell the truth.

“Err, about that..”

“Oh, so that’s how it was. That explains why you were acting so strange in the morning. Are you all right? Does your head hurt or anything?”

Afu. Of course he thought that I was acting strange.

Tanaka-kun came to see me out of concern without changing his kind attitude from earlier today. Even Seta-san and Mikoshiba-kun who knew about my bad reputation were worried about me. They are all great people.

I really don’t want to go to the hospital. I don’t want to be unable to see these

kind people again.

“Shinozuka-san!?”

The tears came pouring out. As I thought about it more and more, my anxiety increased and made it impossible for me to stop crying.

“Hey, what’s wrong? Are you not feeling well?”

I couldn’t talk anymore so I shook my head in denial. I gripped my skirt and even when I tried my hardest, I couldn’t stop crying.

“What is it? If you have anything you’re worried about just say it. Talk slowly and don’t rush.”

Mikoshiba-kun’s low voice. How strange. It makes me feel very calm.

“….School, is very fun.”

The tears wouldn’t stop and I occasionally hiccuped. Little by little I was able to say what I was thinking. It’s scary to say your worries out loud but I know I’m not alone. In front of me right now are people willing to listen.

“Commuting to school by train, going to classes at school. The delicious food I had with Tanaka-kun. Planting seeds with Seta-san, those things made my day very exciting. So thats why….”

I had gripped my nails deeply into my palm and had tears all over my face as I raised my head.

“I don’t want to go the the hospital! I would hate it if I ended up getting a surgical operation and not be able to go to school anymore. I… want to be with everyone more! I want to make lots and lots of memories.”

Toward the end my voice got smaller. At first I was supposed to be fine as long as my body was healthy but now I’ve gotten greedier and also want to have more enjoyment. It is wonderful to just be alive but I’m becoming selfish. Is that not okay, to want more?

After confessing my anxieties I wiped my tears and tried to stop crying. In that time, nobody said a word. That moment of silence flowed on until Seta-san spoke up in a flustered tone,

“There’s nothing to worry about! I’ve never heard of anyone getting surgery for amnesia! But that’s what you were worried about? Rather than being concerned about your memory loss you’re more worried about not being able to go to school?”

“…Yeah.”

When I raised my face my nose was dripping. I waved my hand in denial as she appeared shocked and bewildered and then I wondered if that was really true.

A handkerchief was swiftly presented in front of me. Tanaka-kun’s eyebrows were down and he was smiling as if he were troubled.

“You’ll be okay Shinozuka-san. You’re probably getting an examination but you seem healthy so you’ll definitely be able to go to school.”

“Is that true!?”

“What..!”

As I took the handkerchief Tanaka-kun presented to me, I gripped his hands. Will I really be able to go to school? While I was gazing at his eyes intensely, for some reason his face became red and he looked away.

“Y-Yeah. You’re definitely going to be fine.”

“Will you eat lunch with me again?”

“Of course. Lets eat together.”

Tanaka-kun was smiling as if he were being shy. What a nice person. To be able to sit next to him in class and eat lunch with him makes me feel so fortunate. That’s why I just had to ask him.

“Umm…. Will you please be my friend?”

“What! Ah, yeah. If you’re fine with me.”

“Really?”

“Woah, yes. You’re really… close.”

“Thank you Tanaka-kun! Please take care of me from now on.”

Without thinking I became cheery again. Thats because someone as kind as

Tanaka-kun became my friend!? I was so happy that I smiled with my whole face and shaked my hands in excitement.

“Yeah, take care of me too…. man, she’s so cute.”

While he said the last phrase he used his other hand to hide his mouth and looked down so I couldn’t hear what he said.

“Seta-san!”

“Huh, what is it?”

I let go of Tanaka-kun and went in front of Seta-san who had watched over me this whole time. If I’ve already done this much I might as well go all the way.

“It was very fun talking with you Seta-san. Will you please be my friend!”

I put my hands together as if I was praying and asked her. I definitely want to become Seta-san’s friend. I don’t know if it was because she realized how frantic I was but she gave me a deep nod.

“Take care of me…. wait, isn’t this risky?”

I did it! I made two friends!

For the rest of the time I was excited and hopped up and down while grasping Seta-san’s hands. It’s because I really am happy!

“Hey, you’re really dangerous you know! Tanaka-kun, you’re in the same class so will you please watch out for her? Since she’s definitely a dangerous person!”

“Ah, yup. I’ll be careful.”

“You should also look out for her since you are also in the student council. Hey, why are you all frozen now?”

“Well, she’s become so different that I can’t conceal my bewilderment.”

Seta-san and Tanaka-kun were talking about something together but none of that went in my ears. I was just so happy that I expressed my happiness with a banzai. I’ve obtained friends!

“I’m so fortunate that I was able to make two friends in the first day!”

“Am I not included?”

I became friends with Mikoshiba-kun and then Tanaka-kun went with me to the station out of concern on my way home.

It’s nice to have friends.

Authors Note:

I’m very thankful for all of the comments and bookmarks. Since I’m busy, I won’t be able to reply to all of your responses but I have been taking the time to read all of them.

Answers to your questions are in the activity report so please go check it out if you would like.

Thank you very much.

Wicked Girl 7

Chapter 7

As I was returning home from the station, I was wondering what I should do. Tanaka-kun's friends easily believed in me but I pondered how I could explain this to my family.

Alright, first let's practice a simulation of this situation.

"Mom, my head hurts so much that I think I'm losing my memories!"

"How terrible! It could be a sickness so lets quickly go to the hospital!"

It'll quickly become a big problem. My head doesn't really hurt anyways so lets scratch that plan for now.

"Who am I, where am I?"

"Aika's mind is going strange! We need to put her into the psychiatry ward."

..If that happened it would be a disaster. This is definitely something I don't want. At that moment all I was thinking about was how happy I was at getting a healthy body, and I wasn't thinking of the consequences.

"..Step back."

"Woah."

Suddenly from behind me Yuuya entered with a displeased face. I've already associated that with Yuuya.

Since Yuuya was entering the house I followed him in and smelled something delicious. Ah, I wonder what today's dinner is.

When I got to the living room I saw Yuuya-kun eating and mother. A heartwarming parent and child pair. I also want to be a part of that! Women are all about courage!

“I’m back mother.”

“Ara, welcome home.”

“Mom, I have something I need to tell you.”

“What is it all of the sudden. If it’s about money I don’t have any.”

Why did she bring up money? Do I have a greedy expression on my face? I need to strengthen my mind since I’m going to bring up a serious topic now.

“The truth is, I….”

“You aren’t going to bring up something stupid like memory loss right?”

“Yeah.”

Yuuya had already told her what I was going to say. How did he know? Did he possibly notice? As expected of a sibling! I can really feel the bond.

“Yes, thats right. The truth is, I don’t have any memories from the day before yesterday.”

“Eh, what do you mean?”

At that moment, while my mom was confused, something flew in between us. I was shocked by the sound of glass breaking, and when I looked to see what had broken, it appeared that the cup had hit the wall and shattered. Why did the cup fly?

“Don’t be messing with me.”

The voice sounded like it was creeping through the earth. It was so unpleasant and low that it made me tremble and reverberated throughout my body.

Yuuya looked mad to the point you can’t even express it in words. His glare was so powerful that just one look could make you collapse. This was the first time I thought that Yuuya-kun was scary.

“Just because things aren’t going your way and you have created a bad reputation you’re going to try to reset everything by saying you lost your memories? Are you acting like this is just a game, bitch!”

“Kya-!”

“Yuuya!”

I thought that I was going to be hit. The tableware that was being thrown off along with the table barely avoided my face. I was overwhelmed by a murderous intent resembling Yuuya’s vigor and became silent on the spot.

“You, do you know what kinds of things you’ve done up to this point? You’ve been doing whatever you want and been causing trouble for us. I won’t let you say that you forgot everything up to this point!”

“Wha-… What exactly did I do?”

I really wonder what Aika-chan did. To make Yuuya-kun this mad means that she must have done something extremely terrible.

“You-anytime you caused trouble outside we were always the ones that continued to bow our heads in apology. I may be your brother but since you were in middle school the people around you looked at you coldly! You always wanted to have the things you wished for, and just because mom didn’t buy you the clothes you wanted, you pushed her from the top of the staircase!”

“Eh, no way.”

“Are you still going to act like you don’t know? I heard what you were saying in the entranceway! I’m not going to fall for what you say!”

The rest of Yuuya-kun’s words didn’t reach me. No way, I can’t believe she pushed her mom off the staircase, family is supposed to be valuable, why did you do it Aika-chan!

I was out of words to say after hearing the shocking truth, and timidly glanced at mom. She’s looking at me with worry and is trying to stop Yuuya-kun.

It’s true that sometimes she seems cold but she’s even more kind. She makes me delicious meals and never forgets to return my greetings. Whenever I helped her she always said thank you. Even though I did something terrible to her. She was supposed to hate me.

Mother is so kind that I wonder why Aika-chan ever injured her.

“….Mother.”

I staggered to mom and made a grand sound as I prostrated myself.

“I’m very sorry!”

“Ah, Aika-chan!?”

“I know that this is something you can’t simply apologize for but I’m really sorry!”

Although it wasn’t something I did, I have received Aika-chan’s body. So now I have to carry all of Aika-chan’s burdens.

I didn’t know that kind of atonement I should do so I just continued to bow my head into the ground and apologize.

“Please, stop Aika-chan. It’s all right.”

“But you could have died from it.”

“Although I did fall, it was only from 4 or 5 steps up and I got away with a little injury.”

“An injury!?”

“Yeah,”

Even though she didn’t die from it, she still received a blow. How terrible!

I’m pretty sure that my face had become ghastly pale. My mom was in hot haste and worried while Yuuya-kun appeared bewildered.

Since I had injured my mother there was also a chance that I had harmed Yuuya-kun too.

“Wha-What is it?”

I stood up and approached him as if I were a limping ghost and asked him in a trembling voice as he backed away,

“Did I ever harm you, Yuuya-kun in any way? Could I have done something terrible to you?”

“…Ever since we were kids I was always called your servant and was used like a maid, every morning during elementary school I carried you to school, and my things like lunch money and toys were always snatched away by you.”

That was certainly oppression. I had this image in my head that Aika-chan was

actually a fickle girl who was pushed to suicide. But as I hear more of what Yuuya-kun says that image is quickly shattering.

“Once I became a middle schooler I was big enough to not have to listen to you anymore so then you began to trouble the people around you. You were so selfish, and always forced me to cover up for the quarrels you had with guys. I’m fed up with it already!”

Since I’d treated him that way since we were kids of course he’s sick of it. I heard that your life is influenced by what you experienced from when you’re younger and Yuuya-kun had to suffer through that time. I wonder why Aika-chan did all those things. He’s her actual younger brother.

What should I do about Yuuya-kun. I want him to laugh much more than he does now. I will now treat him like an older sister should. Since I will become Yuuya-chan!

“Mom!”

“W-What is it.”

“From now on will you give all my allowance to Yuuya-kun?”

“What?”

“Okay.”

Although there’s not much I could do, it’s still better than doing nothing.

“Next time I’ll carry Yuuya-kun to school!”

“Don’t be kidding me! There’s no way I can do something that embarrassing, stupid!”

“Then I’ll take you to school on my bike.”

“Noo thanks, I won’t be given a ride to school on a bike by a girl.”

It’s true that being taken to school by a girl would hurt Yuuya-kun’s pride. Hmm thats too bad, is there anything else I could do…

“Ahh! Then when Yuuya-kun is in a crowd I’ll protect him as a shield. Since I am Yuuya-kun’s Onee-chan after all!”

“Don’t be acting like an older sister all of the sudden.”

“But still! I know that I might be a little late, but I want to be your Onee-chan!”

After letting all my feelings out, Yuuya-kun had stopped as I was breathing using my shoulders over and over again. In his eyes I could clearly see the bewilderment and hoped that he could see that I wasn’t lying about my feelings and wouldn’t run from him.

“…….”

“For now lets go the the hospital.”

“Mom…”

She took her bag from the sofa and grabbed the car keys. My mom was half in doubt still but she might believe me.

“Yuuya, I understand how you feel but please calm down a bit. Make sure to clean up your mess.”

“…….”

The broken pieces were scattered about the floor. It almost seemed as if it were Yuuya-kun’s heart, sorrowful.

“Once we get back I’ll clean up the mess.”

“Aika. Yuuya was the one who broke it, let him clean it.”

“……”

As we were exiting the living room, I glanced at Yuuya-kun and saw that he was looking down, clenching his shaking fists. I stayed silent and headed to the hospital with mom.

The mood in the car was very heavy so I didn’t talk. In order to figure out the depths of the gaps in her family over again I must try my best.

Once we arrived at the hospital I was taken to the Department of psychosomatic medicine and got questioned by a kind looking doctor. After that I got a CT scan and a photo of my brain taken, all I wish is that I don’t get hospitalized.

“It seems to me….. from what we’ve seen there are no problems with her brain. It’s probably not just one part of her memory, but her amnesia includes all

of her memories since childhood, it's all life history amnesia."

"All life history amnesia….."

"Since we don't see any abnormalities with her brain's appearance, the cause is most likely from having unbearable stress. Although it is a good idea to expose her to traces of her past, since the cause of it is mental anguish, there is a chance that she'll develop depression. Family members should take caution."

I wonder what this is…… I feel like this has become a serious matter. I didn't know that amnesia was that big of a deal. What if I end up having to be hospitalized in the psychiatry ward?

"Ah, umm, I feel healthy so I want to go to school."

"Yes, thats all right. There's nothing abnormal about your body and living a regular daily life makes it easier to return your memories."

"Yes-! I can go to school-!"

I posed like an athlete without thinking and was scolded by mom. This is a hospital so I need to stay quiet. But I'm so happy! Just as Tanaka-kun and Seta-san said I don't have to be hospitalized.

"Fufu, normally people with amnesia fall into anxiety but it's good that she is looking very cheerful. That way her recovery will be quicker. If anything happens please come again."

"Thank you very much."

"Thank you-!"

I bowed to the doctor and as I waited in the meeting room I kept grinning. I had expected the worst so I couldn't help but feel happy.

"Do you really like school that much?"

"Yes! School was very fun. I also made new friends."

"Friends? You did?"

"Yeah I made three friends you know! There was Tanaka-kun who sits next to me, Seta-san who's in the environmental committee, and the vice president Mikoshiba-kun. They're all good and nice people."

Since I made friends, there's many things I want to do. Commuting to school together, talking during breaks, getting called by my first name….. Ukya-, I'm excited just thinking of it!

"Really….you made new friends, wow."

When I turned around I saw my mom muttering in blank amazement. I heard that Aika-chan had no friends so it must have been surprising for her.

After that I talked about what happened at school today. She was surprised when I talked about how tasty the school lunch was and how I helped with the flowerbed. Apparently Aika-chan didn't like bugs. But they're so cute.

When we returned home, the living room had been cleaned but I didn't see Yuuya-kun anywhere. Mom told me that he was in his room so it was fine but I felt uneasy. I'm scared thinking that he might not ever show his face to me again.

That worry was blown away at dinnertime since he came out of him room to eat with us. But it was very silent.

"We'll rotate so please go ahead and take a bath."

"Okay. See you."

Fuaaa. The bath is so nice, it's the greatest feeling. When I was bedridden they always wiped me so I didn't have many chances to be immersed in the water. I feel so fortunate.

As I was submerged in the bathtub feeling supremely blissful, I heard loud noises accompanied by Yuuya-kun's voice.

"Uwa!"

"Eh, what!?"

Could this possibly be a thief!? They must have waited until my mom was gone. Now they must have encountered Yuuya-kun and attacked him…. I need to save him!

Once I frantically jumped out of the bathtub and left the room, I saw cardboard boxes and luggage scattered about with Yuuya-kun sitting in it. It appears that the luggage fell out of the closet. I'm glad that it wasn't a burglar.

But then I saw the size of the cardboard boxes and felt worried. If something this big fell on Yuuya-kun he might get amnesia too!

“Are you okay, Yuuya-kun!”

“Ah?….hey, what!?”

“Are you injured anywhere?”

I was worried that he had hit his head so I checked but when I looked I didn’t see any bumps. I’m so glad.

It appears that Yuuya-kun has frozen up. His face is red.

“……Are you kidding me! Hurry up and return to the bathroom!”

He pushed my shoulders which made me stagger, and I tilted my head in confusion. What, why is he mad?

“I was worried that you might have gotten injured Yuuya-kun, is that not okay?”

“That’s not even the problem here-! You, what kind of appearance is that, hurry up and go!”

My appearance right now. I hurried out of the shower so right now I’m naked. He’s upset about that? Why?

“Umm….do you have anything against being naked?”

“What, you lost your modesty along with your memories!”

Since I was making his face redder, I returned to the bathroom.

“Are you serious…. forgetting her memories, is she for real….”

Ever since I was little my body was seen by doctors for medical examinations so I don’t have any problems with being seen naked and don’t think it’s embarrassing.

But now I am Aika-chan. It’s not my body that people see but it’s Aika-chan’s well proportioned body. Yeah, I shouldn’t recklessly display my body. I’ll be careful. But it’s strange that I can’t show my family members my body.

My mom came back and was surprised that Yuuya-kun had cleaned the

corridor. When she asked me what had happened she said,

“What were you thinking! Aren’t you a girl of that age!? Please show some more modesty!”

“O-K-….”

I got scolded heavily. It’s difficult isn’t it, to be a girl this age.

Wicked Girl 8

Chapter 8

I woke up at 6am. For the sake of my health I won't miss the radio taiso.

Since that moment yesterday I haven't talked to Yuuya-kun so I was wondering if we were going to eat breakfast together but then my mom told me,

"Yuuya-kun has morning training."

Afu. I didn't get to see him.

"Yuuya is probably thinking about a lot of things right now so please let him be."

"Mom…"

That's right. His mind must be in disorder from hearing that I lost my memories. It would be nice if we could get a little closer.

Alright, I'm going to try my best today!

"Please get ready as soon as you eat breakfast since we're going to school together."

"What, you're coming to school too?"

"Of course I am. I have to explain about what happened to you, Aika-chan."

That's right! Having my mom explain things would make it seem more credible. Also, I don't know if I can explain it correctly so I'll let my mom handle this for me.

For my second day of school, I'm commuting by car rather than by train. Too bad, I couldn't ride the train. I wanted to memorize the path without a map and even more importantly the smell coming from the bakery near the station smelled fantastic. I could get full just from smelling it.

We arrived at school and headed straight towards the staff room. Apparently mom had contacted the school in advance so my homeroom teacher came out of the staff room and led us to the council room.

“Well then, what is your business here?”

“Thank you for always taking care of my daughter. The truth is, I have something I need to talk about. Take a look at this.”

She took out the medical certificate from her bag. For some reason my heart was racing. I’m sure that I don’t have a good impression on my teachers so what should I do if they get angry like Yuuya-kun did?

As soon as my teacher saw the medical certificate, his forehead wrinkle became one deep line. Hehh…

“Could this be…. some kind of mistake? Isn’t this just another one of her tricks?”

Aika-chaan. What were you doing all the time!?

“Sorry for troubling you, teacher but this medical certificate is real. Yesterday, we went to the hospital together and she received it from the doctor. My daughter has, “All life history amnesia,” so in other words, she has forgotten all of her memories.”

“Well, but…..”

He glanced at me and I saw the look of doubt in his eyes. Yeah, he’s not going to believe it.

“Was there anything strange about your daughter yesterday?”

“Yeah, she was acting much different than usual. I didn’t believe it at first,”

“But that’s what actually happened. I know I’m giving you a lot of trouble, but please take care of my daughter.”

Seeing my mother bow, I also lowered my head deeply. It’s possible that Aika-chan may have done something bad to this teacher but I don’t want to suspect her that much.

“I understand. I’ll do whatever I can on my side.”

After that my mother returned home and I silently headed towards the classroom with my teacher.

To be honest it felt very awkward….. Anything is fine just talk about something cheerful! Frantically thinking of something to say I asked,

“Did I do anything to you that made you dislike me?”

Nooooo!

Why, out of all things, did I bring that up!?

When my teacher stopped to look back at me, his eyes were not displeased or full of rage but rather looked cold as ice.

I’ve never been looked at with eyes like that before. Even Yuuya-kun didn’t show me that kind of look.

I’m scared, I don’t know what my teacher is thinking.

I took and step back and gulped as my teacher slowly approached me.

“Do you not remember, or are you acting like you forgot. Either way it doesn’t matter to me. Nevertheless, it won’t change the fact that you destroyed my future.”

“What….”

He walked past me as I froze up and continued to walk down the corridor towards the classroom.

Aika-chan destroyed my teachers future? That is a crime I must carry…. Aika-chan, what on earth did you do!?

I arrived at my seat after walking unsteadily and Tanaka-kun talked to me out of concern. Ahh, Tanaka-kun’s kindness pierces my chest.

“Are you okay? Your complexion doesn’t look so good.”

When I was forming a reply, my teacher began to announce to the class.

“I have one last thing to say. This morning, I heard from Shinozuka’s mother that Shinozuka has amnesia. I’m sure it’s shocking to you all since it’s so sudden but please help her out.”

What…. Somehow his expression seems much different than it was earlier.

My head was in another place in my bewilderment and the teacher left as homeroom ended. Then I felt the gazes from people around me. People were whispering amongst each other as they looked at me. I had already expected this to happen so I didn't mind their gazes.

The thing that bothers me the most is how my teacher was acting. I was shocked at how different my teacher acted towards me when we were alone compared to how he treated the class. Although he was so cold earlier, in front of the class he acts worried about me. Which side of him is the real one?

"You'll be all right. Right now everyone's puzzled but you'll be able to get along with them."

"Tanaka-kun……"

He must have misunderstood that I was troubled because I wanted to get along with everyone. He's trying to cheer me up. How nice of him.

Thats right! Couldn't I ask Tanaka-kun more about what happened with my teacher? Although he may not know everything in detail, I want to know things like how he usually acted towards Aika-chan.

"Um, I have something to ask you Tanaka-kun."

"For me? What is it?"

"I was wondering, did I not get along with our teacher?"

"Sure, by our teacher you mean Satou-sensei?"

"Yeah, our homeroom teacher."

If I remember correctly I believe that was his name…..It's so difficult since there's so many names I have to memorize.

"It looked to me that he was acting the same as usual? Also I've never really seen the two of you together before."

As usual. There's no way that's true. It's quite possible that he acted that way so that other people wouldn't know. If he acted coldly in front of the class, it could influence everyone negatively.

“Ah, but…”

“What?”

I wonder if he’s remembered something. He started speaking as if it was something a little hard to say.

“Just one time, I saw sensei glaring at Shinozuka-san. It felt as if I were looking at a parents enemy, it seemed very frightening. It could just be my imagination though.”

“……”

That’s not just your imagination.

As I thought, Aika-chan must have done something to sensei. I wonder what she did? It—really—bothers—me—.

I wonder if when he said I destroyed his future he means I ruined his future as a teacher? Like a salary cut? Or maybe he became unable to obtain a promotion!

If that’s the case, I wonder what I should do. Of course, I can’t think of anything I could do.

“Don’t feel bad. If you act as you do now Shinozuka I’m sure you’ll be able to get along. It’s very easy to talk to you now.”

Me right now. He’s looking at me. I have Aika-chan’s body but inside I am myself. He’s not looking at me as Aika-chan but he sees me for who I am inside.

“Thank you Tanaka-kun! I’ll try my best!”

“O-okay, oh, yeah. I want to become your strength so tell me anything.”

“I’m really thankful! You’re so nice Tanaka-kun.”

“No, thats not true. …I have an ulterior motive.”

I plunged forward and approached Tanaka-kun and conveyed my thanks with words. It made me so happy to know that he sees me for who I am inside. What he said at the end didn’t reach my ears.

“Shit, I’m jealous of Tanaka-kun.”

“Does losing your memories change you that much? I can only see her as a

totally different person—.”

“….Isn’t it all a lie? It just seems too convenient.”

“True—. It’s obvious that she lied in order to attract guys.”

Everyone in the class looked at me from a distance and didn’t try to talk to me. Yeah, that’s how life is. I won’t give up!

For the sixth class activity we had to talk about the events during the athletic festival. I wonder what kind of events there will be. My heart won’t stop racing.

I opened the guidebook I had received yesterday and opened it to the event page. Wondering what events I could participate in, I took a peek at it.

【Second Year Contest Events】

1. 50M Run
2. Borrowing Contest
3. Obstacle Race
4. Eat me
5. Cavalry Battle
6. Tug of War
7. Together with you
8. Different Class Years Relay

Uwa—, this feels like an athletic festival! But I have no idea what two of these are. What kind of contests are those?

Most people seemed to think the same thing so the classroom got noisy. Our class representative wrote the events on the board and called out for our attention.

“Be quiet. Our contest includes these six events. Each person has to participate in at least two events. 『Eat me』 is girls only and the 『Cavalry Battle』 is boys only. If you have any questions please raise your hand.”

“O-K-. What is『Eat me』and the『Cavalry Battle』?

Wow how great. To be allowed to enter two events! Hooray, this has brought out my motivation. I was always bedridden so I’ve never exercised before so I

need to practice.

“『Eat me』is a bread eating race.『You get a partner』and have a three legged race. It’s decided that each group needs to be one guy and one girl.”

“What—, a bread eating race? I don’t want to, it seems lame.”

“Me too.”

B-Bread eating!?

It’s great that we have it, for an athletic festival event it’s a standard and furthermore bread eating is an event most people need to experience. I haven’t seen it much in manga and novels so to have this event at our school is fantastic—!

I want to do it, I definitely want to participate!

“So for now lets choose the pairs for『Together with you』. In here are lottery tickets so your partner is the person with the same number.”

People were pulling out one ticket at a time from the box the committee chairman prepared. I wonder who I’ll be paired up with. When I looked at my number I saw it had【１６】written on it.

“Person with number 3—”

“What—, to be paired with you. This is the worst.”

“Thats my line, stupid. Don’t hold me back.”

Everyone’s finding their partner. What should I do, I wonder if I should I call out too.

“What number are you Shinozuka-san?”

“I’m【１６】.”

“Really!? That’s the same one as me. Take care of me.”

When I looked at his ticket it certainly said【１６】on it. Yay, I’m paired with Tanaka-kun. I’m relieved that I’m with a friend.

“Please take care of me, Tanaka-kun!”

When I grasped his hand I smiled and said lets try our best for some reason he

turned away. It looks like his ears are red. Does he have a cold?

“Next, we’re going to call out different events so if you want to participate please raise your hand.”

For the 50M run, as expected those with confidence in their speed rose their hands. There were many people from Track and from the athletic department. I want to join the athletic department too in order to enjoy my adolescence.

Rather than being based on your speed, the borrowing contest is based on how fast you can get something from someone. All right, I’ll raise my hand for this one.

Then finally came the turn for the bread eating contest. The one who raised their hand vigorously was me.

“Umm…. Shinozuka-san, are you really participating in the bread eating contest?”

“Yes! I want to enter the bread eating contest.”

“….Okay, so Shinozuka-san will participate in the bread eating contest. From here on we’ll decide by rock paper scissors.”

Everyone else seemed unwilling to join. On top of sounding fun, this contest also lets you eat bread so I don’t see why.

“You seem so excited. Did you really want to participate in the bread eating contest that bad?”

“Yes! I’m looking forward to it very much. I will put all my energy into biting the bread.”

“Okay, good luck then.”

The events I’m participating in are the borrowing contest and the bread eating contest. And since not many people raised their hands for it now I’m participating in tug of war. That makes a total of 4 events. Lets do this!

By the way, Tanaka-kun is participating in the 50M run, the cavalry battle, tug of war, and the all year relay for a total of 5 events. It turns out that he’s in the soccer club so he likes running. Next time I’d like to go see him play.

Class activities ended so while everyone dispersed to return home, my teacher called out to me.

“After school it seems that the student council will be having a meeting discussing the athletic festival. Make sure to go to the student council room.”

“Ah, okay! Thank you for telling me.”

Since that time earlier I wasn’t able to contact my teacher and school ended but now’s my chance. I thought even if it’s a little bit to try to progress…. is what I thought but sensei quickly finished his business and exited the classroom. You’re very swift-footed sensei!

While I confirmed where the student council room was I felt everyone’s eyes on me as I was walking through the corridor. Yeah, I’m guessing that the news of my amnesia has spread? They should just talk to me instead of whispering in secret.

I’ve reached the student council room but as thought about it I started to hesitate.

Inside this room must be Ichinose-senpai, whose name was written on my slippers. I wonder what kind of person he is. I don’t know if I should meet him.

No, women are about courage!

“Excuse me.”

When knocked on the door and entered inside was….

“Hey, the rumored girl with amnesia. How does it feel to be the center of attention?”

“Even if you have or your memories or not, all you do is become a hinderance to our work so it would be great if you went home.”

“Shinozuka. Did you get here without getting lost?”

Afu. B-Bright! There’s only ikemen here.

The first person to speak to me was a person whose hair went to their shoulders and brought out a bright atmosphere from behind them.

The next person who talked was was working on their laptop and seemed short

and sweet.

To be honest this person is cuter than Aika-chan! So cute that you can almost see flowers behind him.

The last person was my friend Mikoshiba-kun. He stood up from his seat and introduced the other two to me.

“This guy is out treasurer Sasaki.”

“Nice to meet you. How does it feel to lose your memories?”

“Sasaki! And this guy is our secretary Chiba.”

“……”

The treasurer Sasaki-san greeted me but the secretary Chiba-san didn’t even look at me and continued to use his computer. He seems like a diligent person. I should follow his example.

“I know I might be a bit of a bother but please take care of me.”

“Ok—…..”

What? The treasurer and secretary are here but where is the president? Since Mikoshiba-kun is the vice president Ichinose-senpai must be the president but he’s not here.

When I looked around restlessly and still couldn’t find him, I tilted my head and Mikoshiba-kun asked,

“What’s wrong?”

“Well, the president isn’t here, right?”

“Ahh, that is…..”

What could this be. He looks like he’s having trouble saying something.

“The president didn’t want to see you so he didn’t come.”

“Sakaki!”

Instead of Mikoshiba-kun answering Sakaki replied instead. If the president didn’t want to go to the student council room just because he didn’t want to see me does that mean we don’t get along? On my slippers it even said not to

approach him so that works out but that doesn't help the student council.

This is a huge problem!

"I'm fine without seeing the president but are you guys alright without having him? Does that become a hindrance in doing your student council work?"

"……."

What, it's silent.

I feel everyone's gazes on me, did I say something strange?

"Ahahaha, it must be true that you lost your memories. To think that you wouldn't want to see your lover."

"Of course our work has a hindrance. Without you Senpai we get more work done so it's all right if you go home."

Since he calls me senpai that means that Chiba-san is a first year. I'll call him Chiba-kun. Wait, what? I feel like he said something inexcusable…

"Umm…. What do you mean?"

"Nn—? Like I said, if you forgot about your lover Kazuki you two must have split up so he could go out with someone he really likes. You got it?"

I'm very sorry. I still don't really understand.

Wicked Girl 9

Chapter 9

Let's organize this state of affairs. First, I need to calm down. Let's try to remember what Sasaki-san said one more time.

Kazuki must be Ichinose-senpai right? I can infer that from the flow of the conversation.

Apparently Ichinose-senpai doesn't want to see me and since that makes me a hinderance to the student council I should go home. I was Ichinose-senpai's lover but the truth is that Ichinose-senpai has someone he likes.

"…Why did Ichinose-senpai and I go out?"

"You're going to ask that?"

Mikoshiba-kun was trying to stop Sasaki-san from laughing while Chiba-kun remained unconcerned.

If you think about it carefully it doesn't make sense. Didn't Ichinose-senpai have someone he truly liked? Then why did he go out with Aika-chan?

"I want to know."

"This isn't a very pleasant conversation you know."

"But I think she eventually needs to hear what happened, right? If we tell her now I don't think it'll change anything."

I really want to know but I can tell from this atmosphere that it's not something that I should ask. But! After dealing with my family and my teacher I am pretty confident that I won't be agitated by this. Alright, I'm ready for anything!

"You see, there's this girl named Sakurako. Kazuki and her feel the same way

about each other. But then last year a girl who fell for Kazuki suddenly appeared and teared them apart. She told him if he didn't go out with her then she would bully Sakurako."

"Okay."

"At first Kazuki tried to resist you know. Me and Kenji over there tried to persuade the girl too. But then that backfired and led Sakurako into isolation. When a girl bullies someone it's very scary."

Although he showed me a smile his eyes weren't.

Also, Aika-chan, what a terrible thing you did—! People say those who get in the way of romance get kicked by a horse…. That didn't sound very witty, okay.

"Bullying, you say?"

"I think it began with backbiting. Kazuki has a great face, a strong sense of responsibility, and is involved in both literary and military arts so he's very popular. Rumors of Sakurako wooing him spread around. When girls who liked Kazuki began to exclude her, he got angry you know. He cleared up the misunderstanding and confessed to Sakurako that he liked her. And that was done in a public place too."

This story sounds just like a romance manga. I didn't know that Ichinose-senpai was that great of a person. I certainly want to meet him but he doesn't want to see me so I can't.

So then according to his story, it was Ichinose-senpai and Sakurako-chan that were together right? He basically declared their respective feelings to everyone. Then why did he end up going out with Aika-chan?

"It seems that people are simple beings that can easily change. Although you said you hated Sakurako that much with just one word from Kazuki you completely changed your attitude. Although you said "sorry" once I can't believe that you're going to act like it never happened. It makes me want to barf."

I don't know if he just recalled what happened but then he made a sour face like he had just crushed a bug in his mouth and lightly clicked his tongue.

"In reality, to match what others do is normal. Even when you're doing

something terrible, it relieves you if everyone else is doing the same thing. It's easy to say that bullying is bad but if you're there watching it happen it takes a lot of courage to point it out. I was lacking this strength."

"Mikoshiba-kun…."

I had never gone to school before so I've never been a part of a collective behavior. All I was thinking was that everyone would be doing lots of fun things together, but I didn't know that there was another side to it. I did see a lot of articles on bullying problems online. I thought it would just make me sad so I never looked at them though.

"….The atmosphere at school calmed down so I thought that it was all over . Then Sakurako fell from the stairs."

"What!?"

"We were told that Sakurako had just slipped but several days later, Kazuki ended up going out with Aika-chan. He didn't tell me the details on how it occurred. But if you think about it a little you can guess what happened, right?"

I saw Sakaki-san laughing beautifully but my head was full of thoughts about Sakurako-san.

"Was she injured? Did Sakurako-san get hurt in any way!?"

"Huh?"

"I heard she got a sprain but she was expected to recover in a week."

"A sprain!?"

It's good that it was a minor injury but sprains are nasty. If you don't properly heal the sprain it could leave behind prognostic symptoms and sometimes become a habit.

"Does she have any prognostic symptoms?"

"No, she doesn't. She's healthy enough to run around now."

"That's great."

No, it wasn't that great! Next time I should go apologize.

Wait a second. While Sakurako-san was injured, Ichinose-senpai and Aika-chan

began to go out. So that means….

“Did Ichinose-senpai have a change of heart?”

“Why would that happen. If you think normally, it’s obvious that you threatened him, Aika-chan. When the two of you began going out, the harassment towards Sakurako ended and Kazuki said that this would only go on until he graduated.”

Eh, that’s what happened!? I didn’t suspect that at all. But if that’s the case, then there is only one thing that I absolutely have to do.

“I know it’s a little late for me to say this now but what Ichinose-senpai should do is break up with me and become married for life with Sakurako-san.”

“Married for life you say…. So then is it really okay for you to break up with Kazuki?”

“Of course!”

“Hmm….”

Also, if you tell me to suddenly become the lover of someone I’ve never met I’d have no idea what I should do.

To begin with, I’ve never even had any experience with love.

Except one time while I lived at the hospital, I was slightly attracted to this guy that I met online.

He was a very kind boy who cheered me up over and over again when I was suffering from my illness.

It’s been a long time since we’ve last contacted each other but I wonder if he’s doing okay. If I remember correctly I believe he was around my age. I hope that he’s healthy.

“Since you’ve finished talking why don’t you guys start helping? The authorization certificate for clubs and distributing the department expenses. From the schedule for the athletic festival to the equipment assignment, we have a mountain of things we need to do.”

“Ah, that’s right. Sorry.”

Chiba-kun who was working quietly without opening his mouth began to speak as if he were irritated. His angry face is cute too. I want to pat his head.

Sakaki sat down while utilizing his smartphone and Mikoshiba-kun also began to do student council work. I want to help out too.

“I want to help with something.”

“Okay, okay. Will you massage my shoulders? They’ve have become stiff from working so much.”

“There’s no way that’s true! I haven’t seen you even glance at the documents since you came here!”

“I’m have sort of a mental fatigue you know—? This tense atmosphere tired me out.”

“Whose fault is that!”

Unlike earlier it’s become a calm atmosphere. This is what the student council is normally like.

“Senpai, if you want to help please go sit there. We’re so busy that we would even welcome help from a cat.”

“Okay! What should I do!”

If I had a tail I would definitely be wagging it in joy. Earlier he told me to go home but now he’s letting me help out. I will work with all my strength!

“In that box are all sorts of prints. We will be using these at our upcoming meeting with the executive committee members about the athletic festival. Without messing up the pages, please staple each set of them together. There are a total of 35 sets so don’t forget to confirm them.”

“Leave it to me!”

When I opened the box I saw there were 8 bundles clipped together. I put them in order, removed the clip, and went immediately to grab the stapler.

This is my first time using the stapler. If I remember correctly, you put the paper right between it and push….. I think.

“……?”

I certainly pushed the stapler but I don't hear the sound of the staple. Did I possibly do it wrong? I timidly shifted the stapler and saw that there was no staple, just a small hole on the paper.

"There's no staple!?"

"Ahh, that's a type of stapler that doesn't uses staples. It's an extraordinary product that doesn't leave behind any waste and you don't need to spend money on the staples.

When I looked closely I saw that the section of the paper where the hole was bent into the back and kept the handout together. Terrific! To think that a stapler like this existed!

"It's eco-friendly isn't it!"

"Yeah thats true."

What an environmentally friendly stapler this is. I'm moved to that our generation has progressed this far. Also,

"I got one done! Even I could do it!"

"….Of course you could do it."

"Yeah, it's not out of place and perfectly done."

"You still have 34 sets left to do.Don't stop working cause you still have much more work to do."

"Okay!"

I silently put the prints together using the stapler. It's fun. It almost feels like I've become an office lady. When I took a look at the prints I piled up, a feeling of accomplishment welled up within me. Fufu—n, I feel like I can become a stapling master.

A moment later, I heard someone's stomach growling.

"I'm hungry."

"How could you be hungry despite eating so much today. Is your stomach bottomless?"

"I think I did eat a little too much. I almost got a sour stomach."

Are they talking about food?

I kept working as I strained to listen through my ears.

“That much is normal you know. You must not have a big appetite.”

“Yakiniku meal with a large serving of rice, tonkatsu, and a croquette. On top of that I also got a second helping of rice.”

“Sounds good….”

I’ve never had yakiniku before. Crisp and freshly fried tonkatsu and croquette. The second you bite, the juice comes out and the flavor of the potato spreads throughout your mouth…. Just thinking of it makes me drool. Slurp.

“Nn? Our schools yakiniku meal is delicious you know. Try it out next time.”

“I will do just that!”

“What did you eat today Aika-chan?”

“Curry rice.”

The same thing that Tanaka-kun was eating yesterday. It was delicious with it’s sweet flavor and had plenty of big vegetables. The portion was huge so I didn’t get dessert.

“Ahh, the curry here is so tasty. I wish it was a little more spicy though.”

“I agree. Too bad the only options are either mild or medium.”

I’ve never tried anything spicy. The curry I ate was always mild because I was ill and they didn’t want it to stimulate me with hot spices. I’m a little curious.

“Do you guys have anything you recommend?”

“Gyudon.”

“Meat again? You really are a meat eater.”

Gyudon. The food you can buy cheap on the street easily and has a perfect volume, Gyudon. It’s also at big chain restaurants, and it has always been my dream to say “So juicy!” while eating at one.

“What about you, Sakaki?”

“Yeah, I think if I were to pick one it would be the daily lunch. I never gets sick

of it since it changes every day.”

My interest was focused on the standard menu so the daily lunch never caught my eye. Does he get sick of choosing from the same menu every day? Lets aim to conquest the entire menu! The food is so good anyways.

“I see. Next time I’ll look at the contents of the daily lunch.”

“Do you have anything you like to eat Akira?”

The clattering sound from his fingers typing on the keyboard stopped and he said,

“Mine has got to be gokoku mai.” (mixed grain and rice)

“Gokoku mai!?”

“Is that a girl!”

It’s great isn’t it, gokoku mai. It’s good for your body, it’s tasty, and it’s healthy. To think that they even have that kind of meal. I believe I will be able to try all of this school’s meals.

“Gokoku mai is very nutritious. Also, it’s much better than having a certain eating habit where you eat the same thing.”

“Are you an office lady! You’re young so you should be able to just eat whatever you want right?”

“It’s because I am young. I need to build a good body foundation while I have the chance.”

“Are you aiming to become an athlete or something Akira…..?”

He opened up my eyes. That’s right. Although we are healthy right now, we still don’t know what’s going to happen to us in the future. We should build a foundation now to protect against illnesses by maintaining a healthy body! Without having any likes or dislikes, we should be able to eat anything and become healthy! But I don’t have anything I dislike though.

“I’m going to follow your example Chiba and try to pay more attention to my health!”

“What, you’ve received an influence from that? Putting that aside, do you

have a favorite from the menu, Aika-chan?”

“My favorite?”

I’ve only eaten twice from the menu so it’s a little hard to choose. Only omelette rice, curry rice, and pudding so far.

“I’ve still only eaten here two times so from now on I’ll try all sorts of things from the menu and eventually decide what I like most. Ah, but the omelette rice was pretty good.”

“Oh yeah that’s right, you lost your memories.”

“It’s not from the school menu but there is something I want to try.”

“Oh, what is it?”

It’s a food that every student has had before. Surely it is a food essential to student life, a common meal. In things like dramas there were scenes of students going to eat this after school and watching it made me feel jealous.

Someday I will too!

“A ham—”

“Sorry I’m late.”

As if to interrupt what I was saying, the door to the student council room opened.

The second I saw that person in my field of vision, the colors around me faded. Then they were the only one that was shining brightly….

“You were pretty late.”

“Are you all right with your club activities?”

“Ah, it’s no problem. Right now I need to focus on my student council work anyways.”

He had a warm, pleasant voice and talked closely with the other student council members. Strangely, I can only hear his voice and I can’t take my eyes off of him.

“How far have you progressed?”

“It looks to me…. we have progressed considerably since yesterday. Senpai this stuff here needs your signature. It’s finished much quicker if someone higher up does it so I would like you to do it.”

“You work so fast it helps a lot Akira. Thank you.”

His gently smiling profile. Just looking at his face makes me feel like my chest is tightening to the point of being painful. It hurts but I can’t look away. My heart began to beat faster and my body temperature rose.

Whats happening to me?

“……”

“….”

He looked back at me. My heartbeat is so loud it feels like my entire body is my heart.

Since our eyes met I thought I should try to say something but I couldn’t think of anything. My head is blank. My palms got sweaty and I grasped my skirt tightly as I continued to gaze at him.

“Shinozuka. This person here is the student council president, Ichinose.”

I felt the blood rushing to my face. I starting getting faint as my head got dizzy and I had a sense of vertigo. It feels like if I let my guard down I’ll collapse.

“Is that so. Ever since you lost your memories has your condition gotten worse?”

“Well, umm,”

One step. Right, just one step towards him and it would all be over. In hot haste I stood up from my chair and took a step back. If he gets any closer to me I’ll suffocate!

I don’t know if he thought I was being strange for standing up so suddenly but he slightly lowered his eyebrows. Uuu….what is this feeling, I’m becoming sad.

“What’s wrong, Shinozuka. You’re looking pale you know?”

I know that Mikoshiba-kun is saying something but sorry! Your voice isn’t entering my ears.

“Aika?”

“…!!”

It may not be my real name but he addressed me. He actually said my name. He’s looking straight at me.

I felt like crying. I felt my shrunken chest hurt as if my heart escaped from me. This is a kind of pain I’ve never felt before. It hurts but strangely I can endure it.

“Umm, I, Umm…”

He’s going to think I’m strange. Oh no, I don’t want to be hated by him.

The more I panicked I got the more I couldn’t think of words to say. Now he’s peeking at my face that’s looking down.

He’s so close! I can’t take it anymore!

“Noooooooooo!!”

I lost all reason and threw the handout left on the desk straight at Ichinose-senpai’s face. My body that was so hot a second ago instantly cooled down.

Ahh, I’m such an idiot, how could I do that!

“I’m so sorry…”

Unable to endure it any longer I escaped from the room. Because I don’t know what I should do anymore!

I heard Sakaki’s laughing coming from the student council room but right now all I can think about is Ichinose-senpai. He talked to me with his smiling face and addressed me by my name. As if everything to do with him was scorched into my mind, I couldn’t forget him no matter what.

As soon as I remember my body temperature rises and my chest begins to hurt. Really, what’s wrong with me?

Wicked Girl 10

Chapter 10

After that, I returned home, my head full of thoughts about Ichinose senpai. His gently smiling profile keeps appearing in my head. Ahh, my chest hurts.

I'm glad today is Thursday since I don't know what kind of face I should make next time I see him. But at this rate I'm going to be troubled when I see him on Monday. I need to think of a plan…. so I thought but as soon as I think of Ichinose senpai my head heats up and I can't think of anything else so it's all over.

My chest hurts and although I'm not really hungry I strangely keep using my chopsticks.

Once I finished my lunch, I laid around on the sofa.

Yuuya-kun has his lunch while my mom's at work. I had finished all the work asked of me in the morning enthusiastically so I was bored because I had nothing to do. That's why I can't stop thinking about it.

All right. Let's go somewhere then!

"Let's explore—, explore—."

I wore a lacy dress and white shoes. The sun seemed bright so I held a parasol as I explored the neighborhood.

I want to memorize the way to school so right now I'm trying to get to the station without using my smartphone.

Some houses had a lot of pretty flowers and some were traditional Japanese style homes. I also saw dogs and a nursery school, the places around Aika-chan's home were overflowing in things that brought out my curiosity.

As I was walking towards the station I greeted the people I passed, talked with people walking their dogs, found a river, walked to that riverside and got excited when I found a park there, completely forgetting my original goal.

Because, there was a park you know!?

A swingset, jungle gym, slide, and on top of that a sandbox. If you see something this fun, you have to go play in it right!

I did things like playing in the sandbox with the kids in the neighborhood and playing hide and seek to the point where I was sweating.

I continued playing until the kids went home when I finally thought something.

“Where am I?”

When I looked around I saw that there were no buildings I recognized. I thought I’d ask someone but there were no pedestrians and the children which were my last ray of hope were nowhere in sight since a while ago the last kid went home in their parent’s car.

What should I do.

That’s right, my phone! With my smartphone I could just look up where I am!

I took my smartphone out of my bag and tried to use it but there was no response. Even when I press the power button it doesn’t respond. In other words, “There’s no more battery!”

Are, are you kidding me!?

No matter how many times I press the power button the screen remains black.

Now that I think of it I haven’t charged it since yesterday. This morning it still had power but I didn’t check to see the percentage I had left. I usually don’t carry it with me when I walk so I’ve made a huge mistake! That means….

“I’m lost!?”

I’m a 17 year old but I’m lost. Drooping my head down, I sat down right on the spot. To think that I would get lost…..I heard that when you get lost you shouldn’t move recklessly since that would just make you even more lost.

When I stood up I wiped the sand off my skirt and sat on the swings. The swing

that had seemed so fun to the point that I stood on it feels no fun anymore now that I feel hopeless.

In the park with no one in it, the only thing one could see moving was the shadow of a single figure on a swing. The park without the children's laughing felt lonely, "Uu….."

My vision began to get blurry. A teardrop fell on my knee. It felt as if that drop was the anxiety in my heart falling and becoming a stain.

What should I do if I can't return home.

"Higu, uuu—…."

I couldn't stand it any longer so I slowly let out my crying voice. I cried on the swing just like a child.

"What's wrong?"

"..! Bue.."

When I heard the voice I raised my head and using my vision blurred by crying I saw someone standing. In surprise I quickly wiped my eyes and looked up again, "Aika?"

"Woah, I-I-Ichinose senpai!?"

The person who was my savior was the one person I didn't want to see right now if I could help it.

Why is Ichinose senpai here!? Out of all things for him to see me crying is so embarrassing.

"What are you doing here?"

"Um, well, that is…"

I couldn't look him in the eyes so I looked away. I know it's sort of awkward but for some reason I don't want to see senpai's face. When I became lost my blood should have cooled down but now it's so hot it feels like I'm boiling.

Yesterday was so awkward so I don't want to see him now. But there's a part of me that's happy to see Ichinose senpai. Why?

"….Why were you crying?"

“Auu… Please don’t laugh at me.”

“Hm? Okay.”

Hearing his worried voice made my chest hurt. I felt ready and told him the truth.

“I was trying to memorize the area around my neighborhood but I was pulled into looking at things like the river and seeing the dogs which brought me to this park. After playing with the kids here….. I forgot how to return home.”

“In other words, you’re lost?”

“Uu, it’s embarrassing but it’s true. I was going to look up my current location on my smartphone but I forgot to charge it so it wouldn’t turn on, that’s when I realized I was out of options.”

He must be shocked. To get lost when you’re already in high school is embarrassing.

But seeing Ichinose senpai made me lose my anxiety. I’m not alone anymore.

“Fu, fuha.”

“Senpai?”

“Oh, sorry. If that’s the case then I’ll take you home.”

He just laughed for a second now didn’t he? He’s laughed right? Whatever the reason was, Ichinose senpai smiled towards me.

My chest squeezed tightly. What’s happening to my heart…. wait, what?

“You know where my house is?”

“Yeah, since I’ve taken you home several times.”

“You’re my savior senpai!”

“What?”

I did it! I can return home!

I walk next to the road with senpai. Afu, he’s close. I need to take deep breaths, deep breaths. So the same thing as yesterday doesn’t happen again I’ll try not to look at Ichinose senpai’s face.

I'm happy just being with Ichinose senpai but isn't he bored since we aren't talking? I need to think of some topic to talk about.

"Shen-Senpai do you live around this area?"

I was so nervous that I stumbled over the word.

"No, my house is 2 stations away from here. I passed by here on my way back from cram school and happened to find you Aika."

"I see, so you're returning home from cram school. Sounds tough."

"Yeah, since I'm preparing for the exams."

Thats right, Ichinose senpai is a third year so next year he's going to college. We only have one year left together. Uu, my chest.

Wait, there was something I felt like I had to say to Ichinose senpai.

Oh yeah!

"Ichinose senpai!"

Senpai had a surprised face since I stopped so suddenly and raised my voice.

His hair was smoothly fluttering in the wind. His slim figure had no unnecessary fat. I could see his collarbone under his shirt and his rolled up sleeves which let me see his tough, manly arms. Ahh, he's so attractive….. Wait, that's not it!!

"Sorry about yesterday! For suddenly throwing the printouts at you."

"Oh, about that. I'm not bothered by it so you don't have to apologize."

Once I lowered my head, something suddenly flowed away. Where did all my nervousness and worry go….

But I'm glad that he said that it didn't bother him. Ichinose senpai's heart is wide. I should learn from his example.

As we were talking I found a place I recognised. From here on I know the way home.

"I can go home from here. Thank you very much!"

"All right. Try to go straight home without getting distracted."

"Okay! You be careful too senpai!"

When I started to go after bowing lightly, from behind senpai I saw Yuuya-kun coming towards me on his bike.

“Welcome home—!”

“Crap.”

Even though his expression showed that he didn’t want to, I’m happy that he stopped for me.

Yuuya-kun looked tired from returning home after club activities. Once we get home I’ll massage his shoulders for him.

My eyes immediately went to the book and flower in the basket on his bicycle.

“That’s a carnation right?”

“…..Yeah.”

“I see, since it’s mother’s day tomorrow. You’re a nice guy Yuuya.”

“Not really, that’s not true.”

He must be embarrassed, Yuuya-kun turning away shyly is cute. But wait a second.

“Mother’s day!? Tomorrow’s mother’s day!?”

What a predicament! I didn’t prepare anything for the important mother’s day!

I can’t just stand here. It’s time to hurry home and think of something.

“Senpai, I’m going home. Thank you for leading me home!”

I dashed towards my house. The sun is already down so I can’t go shopping but I’ll search online to see if there’s anything I could do. I want to give my mom a surprise that’ll make her happy.

“Looks like a storm is coming.”

“She lost her memories but is still playing around with Ichinose senpai.”

“No, that’s not the case since…… I don’t think the original Aika was that simple minded.”

“…….I wonder what’s going on.”

The next day, my mom was gone since she was at work.

I need to get ready right away. Since mother is always doing all the housework, today I'll do the cooking, laundry, and cleaning.

I looked up how to use a washing machine yesterday so now I know I was able to use it. Afterwards I did the window cleaning and used the vacuum cleaner until it was noon.

While I yawned as if I was tired, Yuuya-kun entered the living room.

"Good morning."

He passed by without replying and opened the fridge, then heated up the yakisoba our mom made using the stove. It's already noon so he must be hungry. Once I hang the clothes to be dried I'll eat lunch too.

"….What are you doing?"

"Huh? It's mother's day so I thought I'd help with the housework."

"I see."

By the time I came to eat lunch with him he was already done eating and was sitting on the sofa, watching tv.

After I wash the dishes it's time to shop. If I don't hurry I won't make it.

I headed towards the supermarket after confirming the location on my phone. I thought I'd send mom something but I don't know what her tastes are and I don't have the time so I decided to make dinner.

A food that everyone can eat and is easy to make for a beginner like me. That's curry. What, you say I had it two days ago? I don't care, I don't mind. I can eat it however many times.

"Potato, carrots, and onions. Other than that is the meat and the curry pack I guess."

My heart was racing since it was my first time going to the supermarket. Once I went inside I saw a variety of vegetable colors! Ahh, over here is the fruits corner. Bananas, apples, and even strawberries. They really have everything—.

"Ahh, I almost forgot my original goal."

I'm a curious individual so my eyes easily get distracted by all the products. The things I need have to go in my basket. Ahh, this is the first time I've seen a raw fish! It looks so fresh that it seems like it'll move any second. So this is a fish, I want to touch it.

I went around the store in the same manner all excited and by the time I was done it was already past three so I rushed home.

"All right, it's time to make this—!"

I lined up the vegetables and followed the instructions on how to make it from the back off the curry box.

"Let's see, first I need to cut the vegetables into bite sizes."

I rinsed the dirt off the potato, and also quickly rinsed the carrots. Yuuya-kun entered the living room.

"….What are you doing?"

"It's mother's day so I thought I'd make dinner."

"Can you even make something we can eat?"

"I'll try my best!"

"……."

Huh, for a second Yuuya-kun's eyes looked like the fish I saw at the supermarket.

Since I already rinsed the vegetables I'm going to cut them for now. It's my first time cooking so I can't help but have fun. I set the potato on the cutting board, let's do this!

"Wait a second!!"

"Huh?"

When I began to cut the potato, Yuuya-kun had an upset expression as he tried to stop me.

"Why are you holding the knife with two hands and trying to swing it down with such great force! Are you using it like an ax!"

“The potato was so hard that I thought it would be best to cut it with a lot of strength but…..”

“Also you still haven’t even peeled off the skin. Cut it after you remove the skin.”

That makes sense. So you peel the skin off first.

I put the potato in my left hand to hold it while peeling it with the knife but my right hand keeps shaking so I can’t do it well.

Uuu, this is kind of scary.

“Ohh, hand me that. You go use the peeler to remove the carrot’s skin.”

He said that and took away the knife, Yuuya-kun was swiftly peeling the skin off the potato after washing his hands. Is he a craftsman!?

I-I also want to show off some sisterly skills.

This is the peeler. I used the peeler I found in the drawer and swiftly removed the skin off a carrot. What is this, it feels satisfying! Even I could do this.

“Yuuya-kun you’re great at cooking.”

“This level is normal. You’re just unskillful.”

“You really have the diligence. By the way Yuuya-kun-”

“Aren’t you just too positive? What?”

“Until what point do you peel the carrot?”

I’ve been peeling it since earlier but I don’t know where to stop. If I keep peeling it’ll become really thin.

“Bah! Are you an idiot! You’re done once you peel one time around. You’re doing something pointless.”

“Eeeeh, really!?”

“Start cooking once you know at least that much first!”

What a big mistake I made. To think that I’m wasting a carrot that some farmer made.

Beside me, feeling down Yuuya-kun let out a big sigh and put the skinny carrot

and the paper thin carrot into a bowl.

“There’s still some potato left over so we could use it for potato salad.”

“Yuuya-kun…..Thank you!”

“Don’t mess up next time.”

“Okay!”

Like that we steadily finished cutting the veggies and the meat (Yuuya-kun did most of it) and the curry was made. Cooking is all about love. That’s why I’ll keep thinking it. I held my hands over my head and prayed for the food to become delicious.

“What are you doing?”

“I’m sending it love. I’m wishing that it’ll taste good so mom will be pleased.”

“You look like a witch casting a curse to me.”

The time is before six. It’s about the time mother should be returning home.

The laundry I had hung outside had completely dried so I tried my best at folding it but I couldn’t do it well. Unable to let it pass unnoticed, Yuuya-kun once again helped me.

To have such a kind younger brother, I’m such a fortunate person.

“There’s a limit to how unskilled someone could be. It’s all wrinkled, hang it up after properly stretching it out.”

“I’m home—”

“Ahh, welcome home!”

“I smell curry, did you have some Yuuya ?”

Returning home from work, my mom smelled the curry and called out to Yuuya-kun.

“You’re wrong. We made it.”

“Huh? Wow, the room looks so clean. And the laundry is done.”

“Mom!”

I was able to see my mom’s shocked face, so I guess the surprise was a success?

“Thank you for everything. Since today is mother’s day, Yuuya and I made today’s dinner with our feelings of thankfulness.”

“I made most of it though.”

“Yeah, Yuuya-kun might be a cooking genius. He’s great at using the knife!”

“Does sarcasm not get through to you—”

My mom opened her eyes in surprise. Also the fact that the cleaning and laundry were done made her more astonished. Fufufu, I did it! A huge success.

We lined the curry up on the table and my mom took the first bite.

“..It’s really good.”

“We did it, Yuuya-kun.”

“It’s alright.”

Yuuya-kun, who had already begun eating, gulfed down the curry, repeatedly bringing the spoon to his mouth. Being both kind and shy, he’s too cute.

“It’s truly good. Both of you, thank you.”

My gently smiling mom’s eyes looked like they were moved to tears a bit.

It was my first time cooking so I learned how much work it was to cook. I’m really thankful that although she has work, she still makes us dinner every day.

I want to help as much as I can so I want to make dinner again. Next time I want to make a rich omelette rice like the one from my school lunch. That time I want to work hard on it together with Yuuya-kun just like today.

“Say that once you’re able to make tamagoyaki.”

More importantly, I haven’t even cracked an egg before.

Wicked Girl 11

Chapter 11

“Break up with with Ichinose senpai already!”

Umm, but we already broke up?

Let’s bring the story back to this morning.

It’s been 6 days since I’ve been living as Aika. Also, it’s the morning of the 3rd day I’ve been attending school.

When I was done putting my shoes from the shoe rack on, that girl came up to me.

“Shinozuka Aika. Is it true that you lost your memories?”

“Yes, that’s right. I am Shinozuka Aika.”

Besides Seta-san it’s the first time a girl has called out to me so I responded with a huge smile.

The girl was about the height of my shoulder with twin tails and almond eyes. C-Cute!

She looks like the dolls I’ve seen online.

When I was looking at her while grinning,

“Ack!”

I felt something cold on my face. The thing that fell was a soaked wet cloth.

“If you’ve lost your memories then break up with Ichinose senpai already!”

“Huh?”

Her yelling caused the people around us to start paying attention. If you are so inclined to know please just talk to me.

The irritated girl threw another cloth at my bewildered self. I instinctively dodged. Hey I might possibly have good reflexes!

“I really don’t like you! Ichinose senpai likes Mamiya senpai you know! You’re just in their way, ugly!”

I wonder what this feeling is. Rather than at the cloth being thrown at me, I’m more shocked that she called me ugly since Aika-chan’s face is so cute.

I’ve heard that your personality shows on your face so maybe my character is so twisted that Aika-chan’s face started to become ugly….. Aah, I feel bad for Aika-chan.

When my feet were starting to stagger from shock, someone came from behind to support me.

“Are you okay?”

“Tanaka-kun.”

I looked up at the one supporting my shoulders and saw a worried looking Tanaka-kun.

“What happened?”

“It-it has nothing to do with you!”

The twin tailed girl took a few steps back as if she were panicked and her eyes looked cautious.

Tanaka-kun looked at my face and the towel that fell by my feet, then furrowed his eyebrows and made a somewhat scary expression.

“What did you do to Shinozuka-san?”

“Like I said, it has nothing to do with you! It’s that girl’s fault! Because she won’t break up with Ichinose senpai! You better break up with him!”

Biting on her lips out of frustration, the girl quickly ran away.

I don’t know who that girl was but she was telling me she wanted me to break up with Ichinose senpai. Speaking of breaking up, haven’t we….. wait? Now that I think of it I still haven’t talked about us splitting up. So then that must mean Ichinose senpai and I are still going out?

Dokun~

My heart sped up and my face was getting redder.

“Are you okay Shinozuka-san? Don’t take what she said to heart.”

Tanaka-kun picked up the cloth and was worrying over me. Not good not good, I need to thank him.

“Thank you Tanaka-kun. I’m all right.”

“Really? Then that’s good.”

Tanaka-kun is so nice. I want to return the favor sometime.

Tanaka-kun put the cloth away and after I cleaned my slightly dirtied face in the sink we headed towards the classroom.

I want to go meet Ichinose senpai now, but I don’t know which class he has. Now that I think of it Tanaka-kun did say that the committee members ate on the second floor during lunch.

All right, I’ll go tell him during lunch. Speaking of lunch, I wonder what I should get today.

The cafeteria was crowded as usual. As I was pondering what to get in front of the meal ticket machines, I heard a familiar sound of cheering. It helped because it immediately let me know that the student council members were coming.

I bought a ticket for naporitan and went to the back of the line where the student council members were. Mikoshiba-kun was so tall that I was able to instantly find them.

“Hello, Mikoshiba-kun.”

“Shinozuka. Are you getting used to school?”

“Yeah, it’s really fun.”

“The two of you really seem to get along. You aren’t going to greet me too?”

Right next to Mikoshiba-kun, Sakaki-kun peeped his head out. Beside him was Chiba-kun but I don’t see Ichinose senpai. Too bad.

“Who are you looking for? Ahh, you want to see Kazuki? Too bad but I think

Kazuki is happily eating his bento with Sakurako right now.”

Sakaki-kun was grinning and laughing happily. Did something exciting happen?

“Hello Sakaki-san. I wanted to tell Ichinose senpai something but if that’s the case I’ll tell him after school.”

“Something you want to tell him?”

“Since I didn’t tell him properly yet I’ll tell him that we’re breaking up and that Ichinose senpai should go out with the person he likes.”

“Ah—….about that huh. Wait a second.”

He took his smartphone out of his pocket and was doing something with it.

At any rate I’ve been sensing people’s glances around me for a while but I wonder if it’s because the student council members are here? To think that every time they show up, students gazes gather on them, the student council members must be pretty impressive. As a fellow student council member I need to work hard.

“I’ve contacted Kazuki so once you finish eating go meet him in the student council room.”

“Ehhh, you went out of your way to contact him? I feel bad having you do this. But I will go on my end.”

“It’s all right. Also it’s not the kind of conversation you want other people to hear.”

How considerate. I didn’t think that far ahead.

But I feel bad making him wait so I’ll eat my lunch quickly and wait in the room for him instead.

“Shinozuka, are you also eating on the second floor?”

“I know that it’s special but I prefer the fir—….”

“That’s good, let’s do that. All right, let’s go Aika-chan.”

Without waiting for my response, Sakaki carried the tray with the neapolitan and took me with him to the second floor.

Now that I think of it, that means he wants me to eat lunch with him? Really? Yay, he's so nice for eating lunch with me!

"Today I decided to try the neapolitan."

On the round table, delicious looking meals were lined up. I can't hold back the sound of my stomach growling.

The walls of the second floor were red and were adorned with pretty paintings. There were stylish white tables with chairs facing each other. Against the wall a fluffy looking sofa was prepared and slightly gave off that image of high class.

But the people eating on the second floor were so quiet that they weren't as lively as the first floor. In spite of these things the second floor has, the first floor still seems more nice and fun.

"Mikoshiba-kun, I'm amazed at how high your karaage is piled up. As one would expect from you."

"Fried food again? Good grief, you'll get a sour stomach."

Chiba-kun, who was saying complaints while eating, had a honorable Japanese style meal. It appears to have a restaurant level quality. Afu, to think that they had something like this too. I wonder if this is normal?

"I can't go to the student council room later since I have to participate in club activities today so best regards."

"Okay, good luck."

I wonder what club Sakaki is in? I'm curious but I was even more interested in the food so I didn't ask.

Because, Sakaki was eating a hamburg steak. It's so popular that it's a contender for one of the highest ranked side dishes for little kids. Moreover, the place he cut with the knife had juice seeping out….gulp, ahh, it looks so good.

Why is it that other people's food always appears more tasty? It's troublesome.

"You want some?"

I'm not sure if it's because he noticed that I was staring at it but he cut a bite

size off and held it out in front of my eyes.

“Oh no, then you’ll have less lunch Sakaki-san.”

“Don’t worry about it. Here, open wide.”

The delicious looking hamburg was being swayed in front of my eyes. Uuu, please forgive me for being weak against temptation.

“O-Okay then…..thank you for the food. A—n.”

The hamburg went into my mouth instantly. The moment I readily bit down on the Japanese style hamburg, the juiciness spread throughout the top of my tongue. It has a soft texture. This is,

“Delicious.”

The hamburg was so good and the taste of salt and pepper was very nicely put in. I also want to try the demi glace version of this. No, I have to try it out!

“…..Shinozuka, do you also want to try my karaage?”

“No, I feel bad.”

“Don’t hold back. Eat it.”

He grabbed a piece with his chopsticks and put it in front of my eyes like Sakaki did. Kuu, the smell of the karaage is stimulating my stomach.

“Okay then I’ll have just one piece. A—n, afuafu.”

Apparently it was just fried so it was piping hot, the outside was crisp while the inside was soft and juicy.

What is this, it’s the first time I’ve had karaage this good.

“Mufufufu, it’s so good.”

When people are eating good things, they smile. Certainly, delicious meals have the power to make people feel blessed.

“…Hey, Aika-chan. Do you want to try a bite of my fried shrimp? It’s very good.”

“If that’s the case then how about my meatballs?”

For some reason they keep offering to feed me their side dishes but if I do

they'll have less food. When I tried to refuse,

"There's not very much space left in my stomach so I would be happy if Aika-chan ate it for me."

"Yeah, since after this I'm going to the store. Don't worry about it, here."

I was a little bewildered but it would be a waste if these side dishes got cold so I'll just try a bite of each.

"It almost looks as if we're feeding a baby bird."

Finishing my lunch, I quickly headed towards the student council room. I ate a little too much so my stomach hurt a bit but my heart feels fulfilled with happiness. I'm glad they're nice people.

When I knocked on the student council room door, I head Ichinose senpai's voice coming from within. Darn it, I was going to wait for him first.

"Excuse me. Sorry that I called you out like this."

"No it's fine. Do you have any business?"

I'm not sure if it's just my imagination but Ichinose senpai's face seemed dark. Is he mad that I called him out so suddenly?

Ahh, now that I think of it wasn't Ichinose senpai eating his bento with Sakurako-san…. What have I done!? To think that I got in the way of the two of them's happiness. I need to apologize.

"I am very sorry to have bothered you during lunch!"

"That's okay. What do you need?"

Although I lowered my head, the response I got was in a cold voice. It's making me sad. Not because Ichinose senpai is mad or sad but I'm sad because I've created an unpleasant situation.

"Um, I heard that we're are dating from Sakaki-san."

"……Ahh."

Ichinose senpai continued to read the book in his hand without looking at me.

It’s as if to say that he wants me to hurry up and get this over with, he’s not even glancing at me. It made me think that the smile I saw on his face at the park was an illusion and that he might actually loathe me.

My hands, my feet, they’re shaking. I want to run away from here but I have something I need to tell him so, you can do it, me!

“I’ve heard that you have someone you like senpai.”

“…….”

“If that’s the case, then you should break up with me and go out with the person you like!”

“Huh?”

Finally, Ichinose-senpai raised his face. When I think that my face is being reflected in his eyes my chest hurts. I just thought this but my chest only hurts when it’s about Ichinose senpai. I wonder why?

“I’m very sorry. I really should I have told you when I saw you on Friday. I’m so very sorry that the me before pulled you apart from the one you like.”

When I finished saying everything I wanted to say, senpai made a bit of a troubled face.

“That’s the reason why you called me out?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, okay.”

I few moments later, he put the book he was reading on the desk and stood up from his chair then slowly approached me.

“I got it. Thank you Aika.”

Ichinose senpai smiled softly. As soon as I saw that smile, the nervous tension released from my body, making me collapse on the spot.

“Are you okay!?”

The surprised Ichinose senpai grabbed my arm and kneeled down to my height since I couldn’t get up as if to meet eyes with me. Ahh, he’s attractive today too.

“I’m okay. I was so relieved to see your smile that I lost all my energy. Aren’t you upset about something?”

“Did I look that upset to you?”

Ichinose senpai put his hand over his mouth as if to cover it and inclined his head in doubt. He must have not been aware of it.

From the moment he entered he had a tingling atmosphere, and when I told him that I thought he was mad because I bothered him during lunch he said,

“I’m not upset. It’s just that being called out by Aika has……never been a good memory.”

He gave me a bitter smile. Then my ear twitched sharply.

From my experience so far, I can tell that it was not something pleasant. I know I probably shouldn’t ask but I’m so curious.

“Um, so for example?”

I’m frightened but I tried asking. Please Aika-chan, I pray that you never injured Ichinose senpai.

“……I’ve been clung on too, had my arms linked to hers, things like that. Also there was umm, ki-”

“Noooooooo!!”

To think she’s done such a thing!

It’s true that Ichinose senpai and Aika-chan went out but to think that I would cling onto Ichinose senpai myself….. no way no way no way no way no way!!

Just thinking of it is making me embarrassed so I covered my face with my hands. I can’t even look at Ichinose senpai!

“Aika?”

“Sorry sorry sorry sorry sorry! I’m never going to do something like that again. Ahh, really oh my gosh….”

Aika-chaan, you’re too bold you know.

I suddenly realized, I wasn’t embarrassed at all at having Yuuya-kun seeing me

naked so why do I think it's so embarrassing to cling to Ichinose senpai? Much less being naked is,

"Noooooooo!!"

"Calm down!"

My face is so hot I can't handle it. I thought even my ears were flushed since it felt like my face was burning.

In order to calm down the disturbed and panicked me, I grabbed my head and shook it violently.

Gebububu, my brain's shaking. Ah, this feels kind of familiar.

"Did you settle down?"

"Au… sorry for causing trouble. Um, senpai."

"What is it?"

"I won't cling onto you anymore so feel relieved. Be happy with Sakurako-san."

I took deep breaths as I informed Ichinose senpai. With this Ichinose senpai and I are just senpai and kouhai to each other. From now on we can liven up the student council together and I can enjoy the fun student life I want.

"Ahh."

"Fufu, you really like Sakurako-san don't you senpai. Right now you have a very gentle smile."

"Don't tease me. But I do really like her though."

I'm not sure if he's thinking of Sakurako-san, but I think he has the same gentle smile he always makes but something's different about it. It feels more, affectionate.

…….zuki

Why does it feel like tears are going to come out? I wanted to see senpai's smile but it's somewhat painful to look at.

"…I'm leaving now. Thank you very much for coming here."

"Well, today we're explaining how the athletic festival is going to go so I'll be

here again after school.”

“Okay, excuse me.”

Once I exited the student council room I quickened my pace as if I were escaping.

I didn’t want to remain there. I don’t know why but I didn’t want to stay there any more.

The chime sounding the end of lunch rang so the other students in the hall began to start running like me. As I was heading towards the classroom all I could think about was Ichinose senpai’s smile as he was saying that he liked Sakurako-san.

“…..Huh?”

Before I realized it the tears were rolling down in large drops, no matter how much I wiped them they wouldn’t stop, and I don’t know why.. But as soon as I knew that I was crying not only were the tears falling but it also let out in my voice.

“Uu, uu…..why, are tears, falling?”

I should be used to pain by now but the ache in my chest was unbearable and difficult. Although it’s about myself I don’t know and some indescribable sorrow was overflowing, I couldn’t move from where I was until the tears stopped.

“I see, the person herself is unaware. Sorry, Aika-chan.”

Since fifth period was self-study, no one minded that I was a little late.

But only Tanaka-kun noticed that my eyes were red and seemed concerned. Since I didn’t know the reason myself I told him nothing was wrong though he didn’t seem convinced.

I got ahold of myself and decided to try my best during sixth period. The fact that I have difficult things and happy things happen are proof that I am living.

Sixth period is practice for the athletic festival. For the three legged race,

working together is important. I counted the steps out loud with my pair, Tanaka-kun, as went around the gymnasium.

“One two, one two.”

We were slow at first, but we gradually gained speed. Tanaka-kun matched my steps so it was very easy to run fast. When I stumbled he worried about me, unlike the other pairs which were yelling at each other. He’s like bodhisattva. Next time I’ll worship him.

“One two, one two, Uwaa!”

I’m not sure if it was because we hadn’t tripped for a while and I got careless but our breathing got out of sync. Unpreparedness is one’s greatest enemy.

Tanaka-kun lost his balance and started collapsing towards my direction, of course I couldn’t stop this so we fell on my back.

“Ouchhh.”

“S-sorry! Are you ok-”

“Yes, I’m fine. Do you have any injuries, Tanaka-kun?”

Tanaka-kun hung over me, who had fallen on my back, and his face was very close. Ahh, I’ve discovered a mole on the nape of his neck.

“Uwa, s-sorry!”

In a panic, he tried to get up and separate from me but did he forget? Right now we’re practicing for the three legged race so Tanaka-kun and I are tied together tightly by our ankles. That’s why,

“Oww..”

“Ah, sorry! Hold on.”

He pulled my foot and I felt pain on my ankle, then Tanaka-kun panicked and tried to get me up by pulling my arm.

But with the entanglement of my foot and the recoil of pulling it now we’re falling towards Tanaka-kun’s side.

“Ouch, are you okay Tanaka-kun?”

“Y-yeah….Sorry about earlier.”

“Oh no, this is just practice so you don’t need to worry and we can just get up again anyways. Besides that, I’m just glad that we didn’t get injured.”

It would be a disaster if we accidentally twisted an ankle.

Since we were still in the situation with me on top of Tanaka-kun, we slowly got up and once again resumed practice. Let’s aim for number one!

“….this must be one of the side benefits of doing this.”

“Did anything happen?”

“No, let’s try our best.”

“Yes!”

Classes ended, and as I was heading towards the student council room I ran into that girl again. The girl with the twin tails and almond shaped eyes had her arms folded and was glaring at me with an irritated look.

“You’re late!”

What. Did we have a promise or something? I don’t ever remember doing something like that though. But it seems like she was waiting for me so I guess I’ll apologize for now.

“You waited for me? I’m sorry.”

“Who would wait for someone like you!”

What, so which one is the truth!?

“So do you remember what I said this morning?”

By this morning she must mean about breaking up with Ichinose senpai. It’s possible that Ichinose senpai asked her to do it.

“Yeah, I remember.”

“Then why don’t you break up immediately! You lost your memories so there’s no reason for you to be by senpai’s side any more!”

Her voice resonated throughout the corridor. She pointing at me and saying the same things as this morning so it seems like she doesn’t know yet.

“Me and Ichinose senpai-”

“I already know what you want to say. You don’t want to break up right?”

“Well,”

She interrupted my words and said the exact opposite. I happened to just remember that my doctor once to me to listen to what people say until they finish. Now I can understand that feeling.

“You know what? Ichinose senpai has Mamiya senpai. The two of them have such deep feelings for each other that there’s no place for someone like you to slip in between them.”

“Well, that’s why-”

“Don’t you know that this is all in vain? You’re trying to do something pointless and hurt them in the process. What you’re doing is the worst you know!”

“Umm,”

“Break up with Ichinose senpai already!”

As I was saying we did already break up. Listen to what I’m saying—.

Wicked Girl 12

Chapter 12

I was unable to stop the girl from getting heated up. As I was wondering what was up with her she said the finishing blow.

“Break up with him already, you ugly girl!”

She said it again. Aika-chan is very cute you know! It’s just that my personality is twisted!

“What’s this fuss about.”

He startled me.

Ichinose senpai came out from behind me. Frankly, I think that was bad for my heart.

“I-Ichinose senpai, it’s because you’re too cowardly!”

“What is this all about?”

This time she’s pointing at Ichinose senpai and yelling but she took a step back with her back bent. Now that I think of it, this happened the time Tanaka-kun was here too.

“It’s because you, Ichinose senpai, don’t stay by Mamiya senpai’s side that she always seems so sad every day! Break up with this person already and go to Mamiya senpai’s side!”

“…..If she was even able to become sad, I bet she would probably have more charm.”

“Huh?”

The eyes of Ichinose senpai who murmured this were looking at some place far away. I wonder what’s going on?

“As I was saying. Ichinose senpai and I have alrea-…”

“What’s your problem? Are you trying to say that you don’t want to break up? Someone like you compared to Mamiya senpai is just a miso lees(good for nothing) you know.”

“Miso katsu? Do I look delicious?”

“Huhh!? What kind of ears do you have. Are they as corroded as your personality!?”

So I guess it wasn’t miso katsu. I want to eat miso katsu.

Besides that, she really has a big voice. Won’t using such a loud voice make your throat hurt?

“Just stop this already. Don’t just say your own opinion without listening to what the other person’s saying.”

“W-what’s you problem….. Are you saying it’s my fault? This was originally her fault.”

“On top of that, she’s already broken up with me.”

“…..Oh.”

Nice-desu, Ichinose senpai! I’m relieved that we could finally tell her.

The twin tailed girl gaped her mouth open as if she was befuddled and is widened her eyes.

“You split up…..? Really?”

“Yeah.”

“Oh…. I see. That’s good.”

Her expression was quickly turning into a smile. I bet she must really like Mamiya senpai. She’s getting excited about it as if it were about her.

Looking at her like this, she’s cute.

“Apologize to Aika.”

“Huh? Why do I need to apologize to someone like her!”

“Didn’t you misunderstand her and give her a false accusation?”

“Well that was..”

Nnn? Before I knew it this conversation was about me.

“This is all that girl’s fault you know. Since she didn’t hurry up and split with Ichinose senpai.”

“She has memory loss. There’s no point in trying to press a question to someone who has no memory of it. Also, she immediately came to me and said to end our relationship. She has done nothing wrong. You’re the one that needs to apologize.”

“Senpai…..”

Hearing that he was forced to go out with me against my will, I thought I was supposed to given Ichinose senpai a bad impression.

The twin tailed girl bit her lip and glared at Ichinose senpai. If you bite that hard, you’re going to bleed.

“That could all just be a lie! I’m not the one in the wrong here!”

“Nishijima!”

The twin tailed girl fluttered her hair and ran away.

Ichinose senpai deeply sighed and said we should go to the student council room. As we went there he told me about the twin tailed girl.

“That girl’s name is Nishijima Suzune. She’s a first year that admires Sakurako. She used to always go charge up against Aika but always cried after she lost to Aika’s badmouthing. I was pretty oblivious to it. Sorry.”

“Why are you apologizing senpai?”

“Because Nishijima has misunderstood something.”

When we arrived at the student council room, nobody was there so it was just Ichinose senpai and I. To try to change the mood I opened the window as Ichinose senpai was preparing the documents for the athletic festival.

Using the documents of the past program as a reference, we’re going to figure out how long each activity will take and calculate the necessary times of each activity to create the schedule. I’m in charge of looking up information about the

past programs.

As I was looking it up, I tried asking him what was bothering me about what he said.

“Um, what was the misunderstanding you were talking about earlier?”

“Ahh. What she said about Sakurako-san and I having feelings for each other.”

“You don’t!?”

“The people around us may think that we do but Sakurako-san and I don’t have that kind of relationship.”

What, this is different than what people told me. From what I heard, didn’t senpai and Sakurako-san go out before…..

I don’t know what the truth is anymore.

“To say it accurately, I have a one sided love.”

“What!?”

Ichinose senpai has a one sided love? To think that someone as handsome as Ichinose senpai has unrequited love.

“So Aika, that means that breaking up with you doesn’t mean that I’m going out with her now.”

“But aren’t you doing things like eating lunch together? Doesn’t that mean that Sakurako-san likes you senpai?”

“Recently Sakurako has been getting into cooking. I’m just being used as a sampler.”

So that’s how it was. Ichinose senpai has a one sided love so they aren’t going out. Rumors are scary.

But, if Ichinose senpai confessed then maybe the two of them…. I’ve heard there are many cases like this when it turns out that they actually have feelings for each other. In manga and novels.

“Are you not going to confess to her?”

“……..”

Au, he’s gone silent. I probably shouldn’t have asked.

“Sakurako, Keisuke, and I are childhood friends. Sakurako’s house house owns an old dry-goods store and I heard that her grandfather has already chosen her fiance.”

“Woah! Who is Keisuke?”

“That’s Sakaki, Sakaki Keisuke. He hasn’t even introduced himself to you?”

“Umm, to put it simply Mikoshiba-kun only told me his name.”

I see, so the three of them are childhood friends. That sounds nice, I’ve always wished I had a childhood friend.

Wait, a fiance? So that means that since she has a fiance she can’t go out with Ichinose senpai?

Even if they did have the same feelings for each other.

“We’re all the same age and we all get along. Before I knew it I had fallen for Sakurako, and I confessed to her once. Then she said, “I have a fiance,” so that’s why she couldn’t respond to my feelings.”

“How terrible….”

When I saw Ichinose senpai’s painful expression it made me feel the same way.

He likes her but they can’t get together. Is there anything that could be done about this?

“I had already said “Okay I see” and been giving up but then a fist flew towards me.”

“What?”

“”If you’re going to give up that easily then you shouldn’t have even confessed to her in the first place,” I was told and scolded for. That punch was pretty painful.”

As he was recalling the past his eyes appeared a little hollow. Are you okay senpai?

Besides that, the more I hear about Sakurako-san the more my image of her changes. I heard she was pristine so at first I thought she was the quiet type but

now I'm not so sure. I wonder what kind of person she is.

"So that's why right now I'm trying my hardest to become a man that her grandfather will accept."

"I see. What you're doing seems lovely."

So he's trying his best for the one he likes and will confess again someday. I'm jealous of Sakurako-san for having someone like senpai thinking about her.

But then I wonder why he went out with Aika-chan. Could it be as Sakaki-san was saying, that he was threatened into it? In order to protect Sakurako-san.

"Umm, senpai. Why did you go out with Aika-chan?"

"Hey, you two got here early."

Mikoshiba-kun came in at the worst timing. Senpai and the student council began talking about their tasks so now it's become the kind of atmosphere where I can't ask him anymore.

There's many things I want to ask but I want to find them out over time. About Aika-chan and about Ichinose senpai too.

"Now that I think of it, what kind of person is Sakurako-san?"

"……."

"……."

Huh, the two of them are both silent. Mikoshiba-kun should also know about Sakurako-san so I thought that I could ask him too?

"Hmm let me think……She's like, when you split open a bamboo, rather than having Princess Kaguya come out, it's Kintarō carrying an ax." (TL Note: Reference to Japanese folk tales: The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter and Kintarō)
"What?"

"It's like when you thought it was a rabbit, it was actually a hedgehog."

"Huh?"

I have no idea what they mean. Does Ichinose senpai like hedgehogs?

The puzzle of Sakurako-san is getting even more confusing, and when Chiba-

kun arrived this conversation ended. I wonder if i'll ever be able to meet Sakurako-san.

We finished doing the student council work for today, and when I was about to leave through the school gate I got called out.

"Hey—, Aika-chan. Did you just finish?"

"Seta-san!"

Seta san was standing right by the school gate and beside her was a girl who I hadn't seen before.

"I just finished. Are you going home from your club Seta-san?"

"Good work today. Yeah, I just finished with my club. Ah, this is my friend, Kana."

"Nice to meet you, I'm Uchimura Kana."

Uchimura-san's sweet smile brought out a heartwarming atmosphere and almost made me smile too.

Uchimura-san was a girl with hair down to her chest and slightly droopy eyes. But rather than looking at her appearance, your eyes first go to her voluptuous breasts. They're pretty big….looks full.

Afu. She just introduced me to her, I wanted to listen. What did you say Seta-san.

"Hey. We're just standing here and talking so why don't we stop by somewhere?"

"That sounds good. I wonder where we should go. What do you want to eat, Shinozuka-san?"

"Huh?"

C-c-could this be an invitation!? I'm being invited to go somewhere after school…..

ANGEL-ssAANN!! I'm at the epitome of happiness right now!!

"Or do you already have plans?"

“No, I’m not doing anything at all! I’m extremely bored!”

“All right, then it’s decided. Let’s head to the family restaurant over there. I want to eat their mountain fries.”

The three of us lined up as we talked and walked there. This is exactly like what I saw in my dreams, taking a side trip after school. Ah, the tears.

This is the first time in my life I’m going to a family restaurant. When we entered the store the employee greeted us with a refreshing smile.

“Welcome—. Are you a party of three?”

As we were being led to our seats, I looked around, eyes glimmering.

This is a sacred place for students, a family restaurant. To think that I would actually be able to got to one, it’s like I’m dreaming.

Besides us, there were students from other schools too. I can’t help myself from getting excited!

“Three orders of mountain fries and the drink bar. Do you want to get anything else, Aika?”

“Umm, I’m not very hungry so that’s all right.”

I am interested in the family restaurant’s menu but if I eat now I won’t be able to eat my mom’s dinner so I’ll hold back. Ahh, but this looks so good.

The menu has so many good looking items that just looking at them makes me want to drool. The desert looks so temptatious! Wow, they have a strawberry jumbo parfait. I want to jump into it!

“Aika, let’s go get juice.”

“Yeah, okay.”

Seta-san brought me to the drink bar. Yes, it is a drink bar. It’s a self serve drink bar that you can keep taking from without getting charged extra. I hope the restaurant doesn’t go out of business from this.

“Here’s your glass Aika.”

“Thank you.”

I didn’t know how to use it so I stood behind Seta-san and observed.

Woah, so it uses a machine to get the water out. All you have to do is press the button for the juice you like. Okay okay, I can do this.

Seta-san already returned to her seat, it’s time to challenge it!

“……..”

This is strange. I set my cup down but the liquid isn’t coming out. Why? I don’t think that Seta-san pushed a button when she used it.

“Excuse me customer, please try holding your cup while pushing it forward.”

Unable to just watch, the employee called out to me and showed me how to use it.

I see, if you push down on the place supporting the cup, the liquid comes out. Wow, this is pretty well made.

“Thank you very much.”

“Please take your time.”

The employee had a refreshing smile, a perfect example of one that is used towards customers. I think a smile is very important to those who serve customers.

As I was about to choose the juice I liked, I discovered one that caught my eye. That was, “Melon Juice”

I’ve never tried a carbonic drink before. I wonder what it tastes like. I want to try it but their fizzy aren’t they, carbonated drinks.

Yeah, for now I’ll just stick to orange juice. I’m too scared.

“You took quite a while. The fries are already here.”

“I was troubled over which juice to try.”

I can’t tell them. That I was puzzled because the liquid wasn’t coming out.

On top of the table, was a mountain load of fries. To think that I can enjoy two flavors, ketchup and mayonnaise, it looks great!

On top of that, to be able to share with Seta-san and Uchimura-san, this is like

a dream.

“The regional competition starts next Sunday so I need to try my best.”

“Wow, it’s already the regionals? The athletic club is fast.”

“What club activity are the two of you doing?”

A district competition is a page in your adolescence. Sounds nice, I want to experience (adolescence)a club.

“I’m in track and I do short distance.”

“I’m in the wind instrument club and I’m in charge of the horn.”

“Wow, the horn. It’s amazing that you can play a musical instrument.”

I heard a lot of classical music when I was in the hospital. My physician liked it so often he recommended songs to me.

“The reason she joined was not because she liked it though—.”

“Hey!”

“It’s alright isn’t it. You’re doing it sincerely now and also hearing love stories is interesting.”

“Geez—”

I can’t tell where this conversation is going. Why did Uchimura-san’s face become red?

I tilted my head as I silently stuffed my cheeks with potato. Ahh, it’s so good.

“This girl, she fell in love at first sight with the senpai in the wind instrument club. So, in order to get just a little closer to him she joined the wind instrument club.”

“You fell in love at first sight? That sounds nice.”

We’re talking about love stories. Woah, I’m participating in a conversation about love with a group of girls.

Uchimura-san’s eyes are shining and her cheeks are faintly red. How nice, to be in love. I also want to experience it sometime.

“How did it feel like to fall in love at first sight?”

“Nn, let me think. Just looking at him made my chest ache, and I became unable to see anyone but him. Seeing him made me happy and it hurt when I saw him talking to other girls…. Ahh, that’s when I realized that I liked senpai.”

“Hiyu—, thanks for speaking fondly of your loved one to us.”

“Hey—”

Feelings like your chest aching, and becoming happy just by seeing them.

……I know that feeling.

“Umm.”

“What’s wrong?”

“I also have something to say. When I see this one person, they shine and I can only hear their voice, and it feels like my chest tightens…..”

“Woah, isn’t that love!?”

Isn’t that love.

“Hey, who is it?”

“I-Ichinose senpai.”

“Ah, it was Ichinose senpai as I expected. It’s lovely that although you had memory loss, your love hasn’t changed towards that one person.”

Love. Towards Ichinose senpai? I’m in love with Ichinose senpai?

What is this feeling. My face is getting red and my heart is loudly beating.

“Haha, your face is bright red. So cute.”

“I’m…… in love with Ichinose senpai?”

“You aren’t aware of it? Oh yeah, you lost your memory so it must feel like your first love.”

“First love…..”

I, I’m in love with Ichinose senpai.

Once I muttered those words, it felt like the hazy feeling in my chest cleared up. I like Ichinose senpai.

“…..Awawawawa, I, I, like Ichinose senpai….Noooo.”

“Hey, she’s about to blow her fuse.”

“Ufufu, she’s so cute.”

What should I do what should I do!? I fell in love. I’ve got a crush!

I’m happy but I feel more overwhelmed with confusion.

When I think about Ichinose senpai my chest tightens and my face reddens, Seta-san and Uchimura-san are both laughing at my reaction.

What kind of face should I meet Ichinose senpai with tomorrow!?

Wicked Girl 13

Chapter 13

I didn’t even think that I could fall in love. I was supposed to have only wanted to live a normal life in a healthy body.

It makes me so happy. To think that falling in love with someone could make you feel so warm.

“But out of all people it’s Ichinose senpai huh. He already has Mamiya senpai though.”

Ah…. What am I getting all happy about. That’s right. Although I can fall in love, Ichinose senpai likes Sakurako-san so my feelings would just get in their way.

The delicious taste from the potato in my mouth dissolved as my body temperature suddenly dropped.

Is there no meaning to my love?

“That doesn’t matter!”

“What…..”

When I raised my head after feeling down, Uchimura-san was giving me a serious expression.

“It doesn’t matter if the person you like has a lover. Because people can’t help falling in love!”

“But, you know he has his girlfriend is Mamiya senpai?”

“Like I said, it doesn’t matter! No matter who he is with, you shouldn’t try to deny your own feelings. It’s okay to not give up right away.”

“Is it okay to not give up?”

Uchimura-san’s words shook my heart since I thought that I wasn’t allowed to fall in love with Ichinose senpai.

“I gave up because he had a lover. That kind of thing is really sad. Since you still haven’t done anything about it Shinozuka-san.”

“I haven’t done anything?”

“Then again pulling apart a relationship between a couple would be unforgivable. But I think you shouldn’t give up right away. Ichinose senpai could fall in love with you or you could possibly fall in love with another person. Nature and your heart might separate further away from each other.”

My senpais may not be lovers but I know I probably shouldn’t tell them.

Ichinose senpai has liked Sakurako-san for a long time so I don’t think that he’ll fall in love with me. But, I don’t want to act like I never had those feelings.

“That’s why for now, just value your feelings towards Ichinose senpai. Since love is what makes a women become beautiful.”

“What—, but you know, isn’t unfulfilled love just painful?”

“Even if your love doesn’t get fulfilled, a love that is only full of sadness is lonely. You know that all the memories you’ve made with that person will become painful?”

“I don’t want that to happen!”

I definitely don’t want my encounter with Ichinose senpai to become unpleasant!

As if to calm me down, Uchimura-san smiled gently.

“Yeah, that’s why instead of giving up right away, I think that you should try your best until you are satisfied. There will be sad and painful things but I don’t think that falling in love with Ichinose senpai will all be for nothing. Good luck, Shinozuka-san.”

“Uchimura-san……”

The tears came gushing out. I’m happy a girl my age is cheering me up and

giving me courage. I want to be her friend.

Ichinose senpai likes Sakurako-san so I bet that my feelings will never be fulfilled. But still, the me who was always living at the hospital and never thought about liking someone was able to fall in love. I'm happy, I'm incredibly happy.

"N—, but we don't know all that much about relationships. It's true that no matter how strong my opponents are at my matches, I don't want to back out. Yeah, I'll also cheer you on. Good luck, Aika!"

She plunged forward and gently stroked my head.

Her smile made me feel better. I have someone supporting me. It's warm, it makes me feel warm.

"Hey is something wrong? Why are you crying!?"

"Huh?"

I didn't notice until Seta-san pointed it out. The tears flowed out of my eyes and wouldn't stop even when I wiped them away.

"What, what?"

"Don't rub them. Handkerchief, handkerchief."

Uchimura-san lent her handkerchief so I used it around my eyes and the two of them waited for me.

A healthy body. My first love. Also, a friend that supports me. I had always, always wanted these things. I had wished to live the kind of life a girl my age would normally have.

That is now being fulfilled.

"….Thank you, thank you."

"Huh, again!?"

"What's wrong Shinozuka-san. Why are you crying?"

The two of them were once again perplexed by my sudden tears. Since I didn't want to trouble them, I told them my thoughts, although my words were broken.

“I was just so happy…… I didn’t know what to do since it was the first time feeling these things but you two, Uchimura-san and Seta-san, supported me so now I know I’m not alone. My chest feels warm.”

“…..Aika.”

“So thank you. I’m happy that I was able to become your friend, Seta-san. I also want to be your friend, Uchimura-san.”

I looked Uchimura-san straight in the eye as I asked her.

She appeared surprised but she nodded without making a displeased expression. What a great person!

“Take care of me, Aika.”

“Please take care of me too.”

“Alright, let’s cheer in commemoration of this.”

This is my fourth friend. I was so happy that by the time I got home I had eyes like a rabbit.

The sun began to sink and the beautiful sunset was stained red. As we walked together towards the station, I saw the shadow of the three of us and unintentionally smiled.

“Ah, let’s exchange our contact information.”

Amazing! I got both of their email addresses. I saw their names in my address book and that made me so happy that I almost danced in joy. Although I did jump up and down.

“Hey and also, could you stop calling me “Seta-san”? Just call me Mayu.”

“Yeah and also you can call me Kana.”

“Oh, um…… Mayu…chan Kana-chan.”

Afu, calling them their names! Is it okay, is it okay? It’s embarrassing it’s embarrassing. As I was acting fidgety, Seta…..Mayu-chan laughed at me.

“Aika seems kind of like a small animal. Don’t you lose to Mamiya senpai.”

“Mamiya senpai does seem kind of flawless. Through Aika you seem like the

refreshing type which means that being with you makes people feel calm so I can't say that you don't have a chance at winning."

"Have the two of you met Mamiya senpai before?"

I've heard about Mamiya senpai from a lot of people but the more I hear about her the more confused I get. I wonder what on earth she's really like?

"Hmm, I've never directly had a conversation with her but she seems like the Yamato Nadeshiko type. She's really beautiful and graceful, the opposite of me."

"I've talked to her many times but she seemed like an adult-like and kind senpai. She has the elegant behavior expected of a dry-goods store daughter."

Nn? Huh? The way she's being described is different than what I heard from Ichinose senpai and Mikoshiba-kun. What is going on?

I separated from them at the station and as I was skipping home, I saw Yuuya-kun on his bike and called and waved out to him in a loud voice when, "Shut up —!"

He yelled that out as he rode by and disappeared. That's OK.

Before I went to sleep, my smartphone on my desk began to vibrate. It's a message. Could it possibly be from Mayu-chan?

I moved my shaking finger and opened the receive box and in it were two messages. The first one was from Mayu-chan. And the other one was…..

"Ichinose senpai….."

The sender's name said Ichinose senpai and it was sent on May 5th. It was the day that I died and also the day that Aika-chan committed suicide.

I wonder what it says.

I timidly opened the mail and it read,

"Ahh, I like her. I have only had eyes for Sakurako since a young age."

That was all. But it made my chest feel a prickling pain. Although I should already know that Ichinose senpai likes Mamiya-san.

That's right. I wonder what Aika-chan responded with?

I opened the sent box and only saw one message remaining. It was addressed to Ichinose senpai and it was sent on May 5th. The time showed that is was sent before the message from Ichinose senpai.

I gulped and opened the message.

“Kazuki senpai you must really like Sakurako senpai huh.”

After this mail was sent, that message from Ichinose senpai was received. That’s the end.

This is simply my own conjecture but I think that Aika-chan seriously liked Ichinose senpai. But she knew that Ichinose senpai liked Sakurako-san so it was heart-breaking….

Aika-chan. Aika-chan.

Do I feel this pain in my chest from Aika-chan’s body? Our souls are different but this body is Aika-chan’s so is that why when I look at Ichinose senpai things happen like my chest feels painful and my heart beats faster? Is my first love just a feeling passed over from Aika-chan?

The words that Kana-chan said at the family restaurant rose to the surface of my mind.

“It’s lovely that although you lost your memory, your love hasn’t changed towards him.”

The feelings I have towards Ichinose senpai, I wonder if they are really my own. I don’t know, I don’t know.

Without knowing anything still, I felt pain in my chest and the tears came trickling down.

“Tomorrow….. I’ll ask Ichinose senpai why he went out with Aika-chan.”

That night I wasn’t able to sleep well, I reread the warm message from Mayu-chan saying “Let’s go eat together again sometime” over and over and closed my eyes as I grasped my phone tightly.

When I woke up in the morning my face looked terrible. How did this happen! I ruined Aika-chan’s cute face. At this rate it’s not okay. I need to motivate myself and get better.

I washed my face at the sink and clapped my face many times to feel energized.

“What the heck are you doing.”

“Ah, good morning Yuuya-kun.”

“Yeah—”

Did you hear that? Yuuya replied. That Yuuya-kun who was always ignoring me responded to me! I’m so happy!

I gazed at Yuuya-kun, who was brushing his teeth in front of the mirror, and I had a recurring thought.

“I like you Yuuya-kun.”

“Gobo, gawa, gawa, gawa….waaaa!?”

“The fact that I like you Yuuya-kun is a true feeling that I just realized.”

“…..I don’t know what you mean.”

Yuuya-kun was overcome with surprise as toothpaste spilled from his mouth. Rather than only showing me his angry face, from now on I hope to see more of Yuuya-kun since I am his big sister after all.

That’s right, this was originally Aika-chan’s body. More or less, her feelings should be carried over to me. Even so, these feelings of liking someone are my own. I want to live partly for Aika-chan’s sake.

“Your onee-chan loves you, Yuuya-kun.”

“……”

For some reason I feel more energized. All right! Let’s begin with helping out.

“Mom, I’ll help you wash the dishes.”

“That’ll help a lot. Will you make it in time?”

“Yeah, I’ve still got time. It’s faster if the two of us put them away.”

“Hey Yuuya. Why are you making such a strange face?”

“……It’s nothing..at all.”

For the sake of my student council duties, I had to leave a little earlier. When I walked down the quiet corridor and into the student council room, Sakaki-san was there. Ah, Sakaki-san is Ichinose senpai's childhood friend so does that mean he's my senpai? It's probably better if I call him senpai.

"Good morning, Sakaki senpai."

"Morning—. You're very energetic this morning."

"Yes, being energetic is good for a person!"

I prepared the necessary files and opened the window for a change of atmosphere. I adorned a cup with the flower I found this morning on the way to school and put it in the student council room. I feel like it increased the brilliance of the room.

Yeah, flowers are really nice. It can calm down a person's spirit.

As I was flipping through the documents for the athletic festival, the third year's activities caught my eye. Many of the events were the same as the second year's but there some were different.

I want to see the cheering party. It's that thing right? The guys wear school uniforms and yell in a cool voice, and do stuff like dancing. If I saw something like that my tension would definitely increase!

"Sakaki senpai, which events in the athletic festival are you participating in?"

"Hmm, me? The 50 meter dash, the cavalry battle, and the cheering party."

"You're in the cheering party!? I'll definitely watch and cheer you on!"

"So you'll cheer for the cheering party. Try to cheer for the other events too —"

I wonder what Ichinose senpai is participating in. I'll cheer him on with all my might.

"What are you participating in, Aika-chan?"

"Umm, the bread eating contest, two-legged race, borrowing contest, and tug of war."

I'm participating in a lot of events so I'll be using a lot of physical strength.

Maybe I'll try waking up early and jogging. Waking up early and jogging…..is something you can only do when you're healthy. Ahh, I'm so glad that I am.

"B-Bread eating contest! Ahahahahaha!!"

As I was being shocked by Sakaki senpai's sudden burst of laughter, Mikoshiba-kun and Chiba-kun entered the student council room.

"You're so noisy from the morning."

"Good morning. Did something happen?"

"Hahaha….. Aika-chan told me that she was participating in the bread eating contest at the Athletic festival."

"The bread eating contest, wasn't that the event that Sakaki senpai made up for fun? I'm amazed that you entered it."

Sakaki senpai was the one who suggested to do it. What a great person. Thank you very much.

"If you laugh that much your jaw's going to get out of place."

As Sakaki senpai continued to laugh, Ichinose senpai entered the room. Ignoring the flash of pain in my chest, I greeted him cheerfully. Greetings are important.

"Good morning. Hey, why is he laughing so much?"

"I wonder?"

"Fuhaha, Aika-chan told me that she's participating in the bread eating competition. I better go and cheer for this right."

"The bread eating competition?"

Even Ichinose senpai looks shocked. Is it really that strange? The bread eating contest is something that you can only do at the athletic festival, it's a valuable competition. Why wouldn't I participate.

"By the way, what kind of bread are they serving?"

"We still haven't decided yet. If I remember correctly the ordering deadline is the day after tomorrow."

“What kind of bread do you want Aika-chan? Hey, you should go ask for the participants opinions…. fufu.”

I feel like the outcome will depend on the type of bread. This is a pretty important task. Hmm, I wonder what would be the best? It would be good if it were easy to bite.

“….Something like french bread right?”

“That’s hard!”

“Yeah that’s a little tough. It’s too big and heavy so it might not be supported by the string.”

Oh yeah, we shouldn’t only consider the fact that it’s easy to bite. Now that I think of it, how are they going to hang the bread? They were talking about a string but are they going to sew it on the bread?

“How are you going to hang the bread?”

“We’re going to attach scotch tape to the bag the bread is in and suspend the string.”

“What! We’re eating the bread as it’s in the bag?”

I never thought they would be using the bag. It’s a little different than I had imagined.

“It’s for hygienic purposes, and in the first place there is no other way to hang the bread.”

“What about hanging it from a fish hook?”

“Then we’ll have injuries!”

Mu—. It’s different than I imagined but, I’m sure that this is a bread eating contest. Since it’s in a bag, what kind of bread would be good?

“If it was my choice a katsu sandwich sounds nice.”

“No.”

“If we go by the standard wouldn’t an-pan be good? Besides that there is cream pan and jam bread and such.”

“But there are people who don’t like sweets. I think that we should choose something that everyone would like.”

“Let’s use white bread!”

“White bread? Isn’t that flavorless?”

“It’s staying in the bag so we could bring it home afterwards. People could choose what they want to put on it like margarine or jam at home, so I don’t think anyone will complain about it.”

“That makes sense. Thinking of it that way white bread sounds nice too. Let’s do it. Thank you Aika.”

I’m glad that we’ve decided on white bread and all but I’m more happy because Ichinose senpai said thank you to me. I was able to be of use. Gufufufu.

“Bread with teeth marks on it……”

That’s a good memory right—.”

“Yeah, that’s good. As long as the people doing it are happy.”

As he was laughing I saw something flicker along with a sound I wasn’t used to hearing.

“Huh, what?”

“It’s a picture. We need a picture of the student council activities too.”

In Mikoshiba-kun’s hand was a digital camera. A photo. Just now, I got a photo of me taken? A picture with me in it.

“I want that photo!”

“Sure. It’s just an ordinary scene though?”

“I want it! I want a picture of my usual everyday life.”

Pushed by my threatening attitude, Mikoshiba-kun promised me that he would print a copy for me later. I can’t help but feel excited. It’s not just in my memory. A memory that will remain in my hand. I definitely want it.

“…….Aika-chan do you have a smartphone?”

“Yeah, I do have one but?”

Sakaki senpai took some kind of pole out of his bag and attached my smartphone to the pole.

“What is that?”

“This is a selfie stick. Okay okay, everyone gather around.”

“Hey, I don’t need to be in it.”

“This is a command from your senpai. There’s no point if we don’t have everyone in it.”

With a reluctant expression, Chiba-kun lined up beside me with Sakaki senpai on the other side. Behind me Ichinose senpai and Mikoshiba-kun were lining up.

“Okay, here we go. Smile—.”

Before I knew it the shutter sound went off and Sakaki senpai gave me my phone back. The members of the student council were projected on my screen.

Ichinose senpai and the others laughing. A little sulky Chiba-kun. And in the middle, “I’m in the photo.”

My appearance may be Aika but this is unmistakably me. The me right now is in it.

“You wanted a photo of your usual day right? Look at it and try your best at the bread eating contest—.”

What should I do. I’m so happy. I’m so happy that the tears won’t stop.

“W-Why are you crying?”

“Memory……The fact that I am here now, a picture of this memory….. Thank you Sakaki senpai.”

“Nn? I’m not sure what you mean.”

During my childhood I had so many photos but as I grew we took less and less photos. I wasn’t able to take any.

But in this photo, I’m displayed in it. Proof of the memory that I was here with everyone else. This isn’t just a dream, I’m actually right here. I’m laughing with everyone else.

“……Aika has memory loss. No matter how much she looks at her past photos, she doesn’t have memories of them so their aren’t any feelings associated with them I bet. But, in this photo, the Aika now is in. Memories of Aika right now. Isn’t she happy because of that?”

“……Aika-chan.”

The student council members were confused with what to do as I held my phone tight and cried all torn up.

I will try my best. Since I want to create more and more memories.

“This messes with our vibe. Man, she really must have lost her memories.”

The hand of Sakaki senpai which was gently stroking my head felt very warm.